

PAPERCUTZ™

PROUDLY PRESENTS THE FATALISTIC
FIFTH ISSUE OF THE ALL-NEW...

TALES FROM THE CRYPT

BASED ON THE CLASSIC EC COMICS SERIES.



RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED TO WILLIAM M. GAINES, AL FELDSTEIN,
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EVANS, GRAHAM INGELS, JACK KAMEN, BERNIE KRIGSTEIN, HARVEY
KURTZMAN, JOE ORLANDO, GEORGE ROUSSOS, MARIE SEVERIN, AL
WILLIAMSON, AND WALLY WOOD.

"QUEEN OF THE VAMPIRES"

MARK BILGREY

WRITER

Mr. EXES

ARTIST

MARK LERER

LETTERER



THE CRYPT-KEEPER

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PAPERCUT™

NO. 5
ALL-NEW!

TALES FROM THE CRYPT



FEATURING...



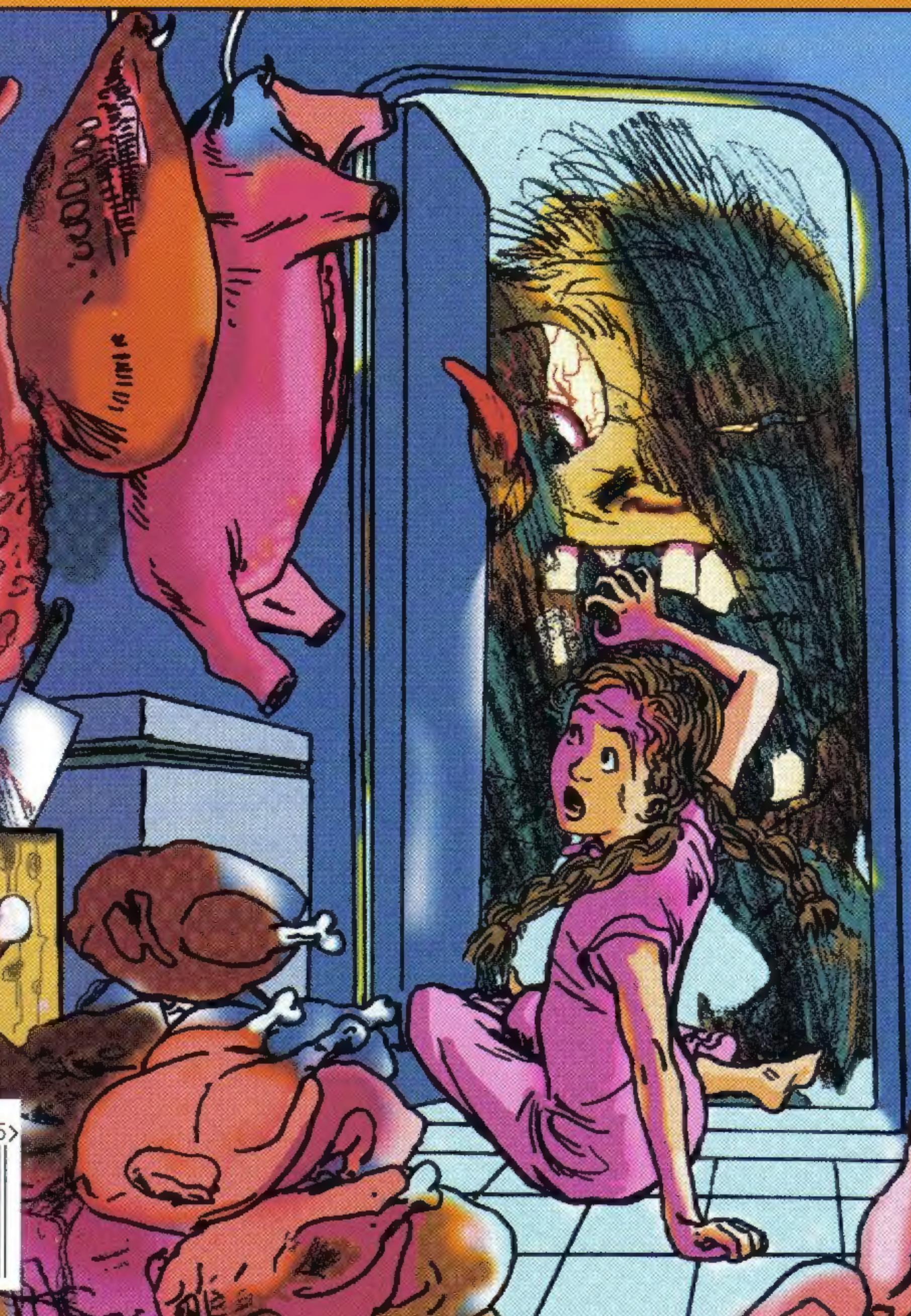
THE CRYPT-KEEPER



THE OLD WITCH



THE VAULT-KEEPER



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ALWYN IS A SMALL COLLEGE IN THE BERKSHIRE MOUNTAINS OF MASSACHUSETTS. IT'S QUIET, PICTURESQUE AND VERY OLD. MOST OF THE STUDENTS ON CAMPUS TALK ABOUT THE USUAL THINGS THAT YOUNG PEOPLE TALK ABOUT....

THESE BOYS ARE LIKE SO IMMATURE!

HEY, CHECK HER OUT.

SHE'S HOT!

WHICH BRINGS US TO THE DORM OF TWO ROOMMATES, SALLY "SYBIL" MILLS AND TINA "TANITH" BENSON, WHO ARE TALKING ABOUT THEIR FAVORITE SUBJECT...

GUESS WHAT I GOT, TANITH? VICTORIA PRICE'S NEW VAMPIRE DUBOIS NOVEL, "BOUQUET OF BLOOD"!

THAT'S NOT DUE OUT TILL NEXT MONTH! HOW'D YOU GET IT?

IT'S AN ARC--AN ADVANCE READING COPY! I POSED AS THE ALWYN CAMPUS NEWS' BOOK CRITIC.

YOU'RE BAD! C'MON LET'S READ IT!

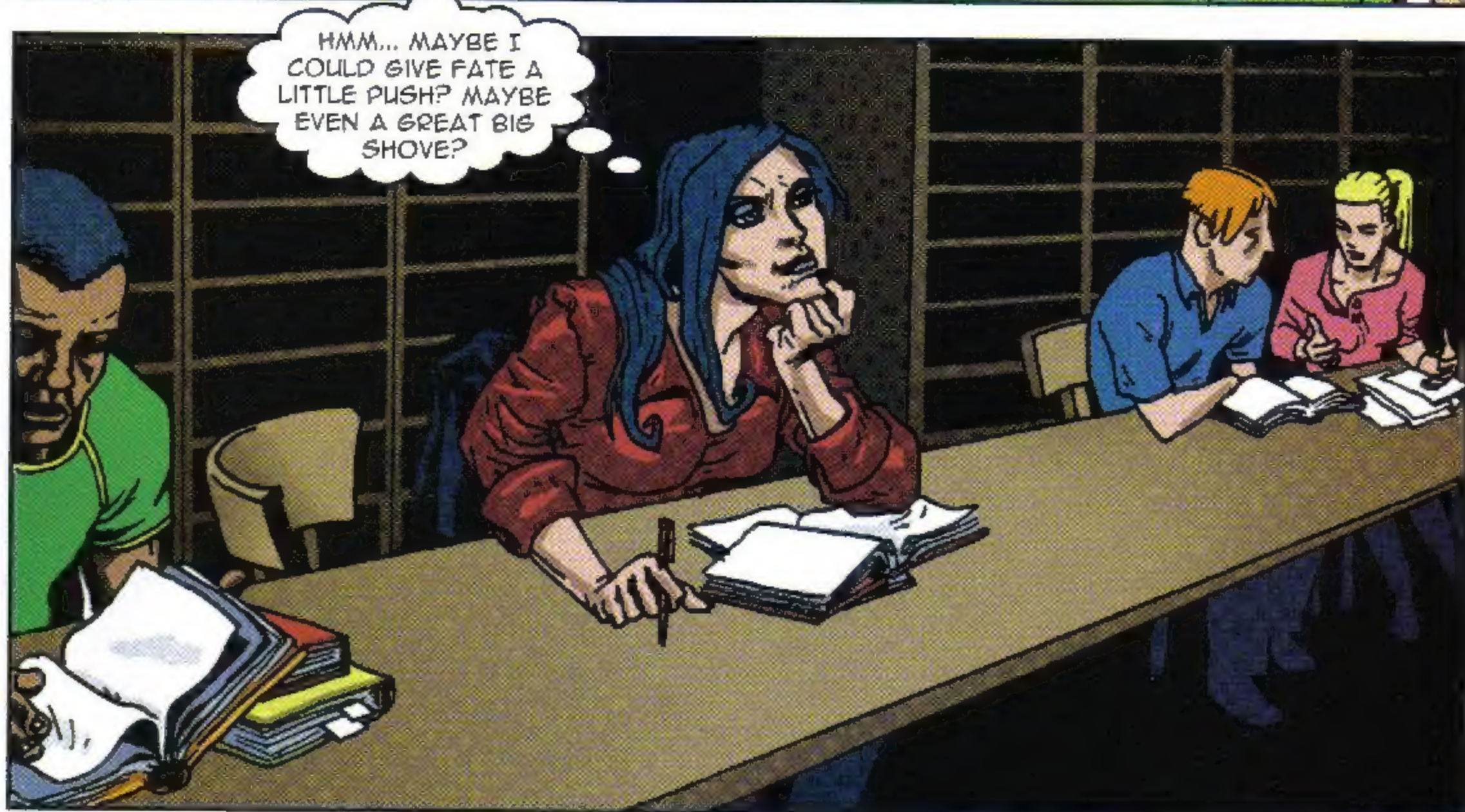
VICTORIA PRICE
BOUQUET
BLOOD

WONDER WHY EVERYONE THINKS WE'RE WEIRD?

'CAUSE WE'RE IN A CEMETERY AT NIGHT, DRESSED LIKE VAMPIRES? SEEMS PERFECTLY NORMAL TO ME.









I CAN ALWAYS
GET ANOTHER FRIEND, BUT
MEETING MY FAVORITE WRITER
IS A ONCE IN A LIFETIME
OPPORTUNITY. WHAT IF TANITH
SUDDENLY JUST 'VANISHED'?
BUT WHAT WOULD I DO
WITH HER BODY?



I KNOW, I KNOW!
IT'S PERFECT! IT'S
SO OBVIOUS I CAN'T
BELIEVE I DIDN'T
THINK OF THIS
SOONER!



PROBLEM
SOLVED. HEH. NOW
I CAN FINALLY
REST IN PEACE.

FINALLY...

I'M SO EXCITED,
TOMORROW IS
THE BIG DAY!

LIKE I COULD FORGET
ABOUT THAT? C'MON, LET'S
GO TO OUR SPECIAL PLACE
AND CELEBRATE!

I'M KIND OF TIRED. I
THOUGHT I'D MAKE IT
AN EARLY NIGHT.

BUT WE HAVE
TO GO! I, UH,
MEAN, IT'S OUR
RITUAL.

OH, YOU'RE
SO SWEET. ALL
RIGHT. BUT LET'S
MAKE IT QUICK
TONIGHT.

OH, IT'LL BE VERY QUICK.
I GUARANTEE IT.

TALES
FROM THE
CRYPT



A FEW
MINUTES
LATER,
AT THE
CEMETERY...

TO QUOTE THE VAMPIRE DUBOIS IN
COME DIE WITH ME, "THE SWEETNESS OF
VICTORY IS INFINITELY MORE DESIRABLE
THAN THE BITTER AFTERTASTE
OF DEFEAT."

MY
FEET AREN'T
BITTER.



A FARTHING
FOR YOUR
THOUGHTS, MY
DEAREST
SYBIL.

JUST THE USUAL,
DEAREST TANITH;
I PONDER THE
ABSURDITIES OF
LIFE...

...AND YOUR
IMMINENT
DEATH.



YOU, MY DEAREST
SYBIL, ARE A RARE
COMMODITY INDEED,
IN THIS VEIL OF TEARS.
A TRUE FRIEND.

AS ARE
YOU, OH YE OF
MUCH FAITH.

NOW,
WHERE IS THAT
SHOVEL I HID
HERE EARLIER?
AH!



ALAS, POOR TANITH, YOU
WERE ALWAYS TOO TRUSTING.
I WAS BEGINNING TO FEEL
PANGS OF SYMPATHY
FOR YOU.

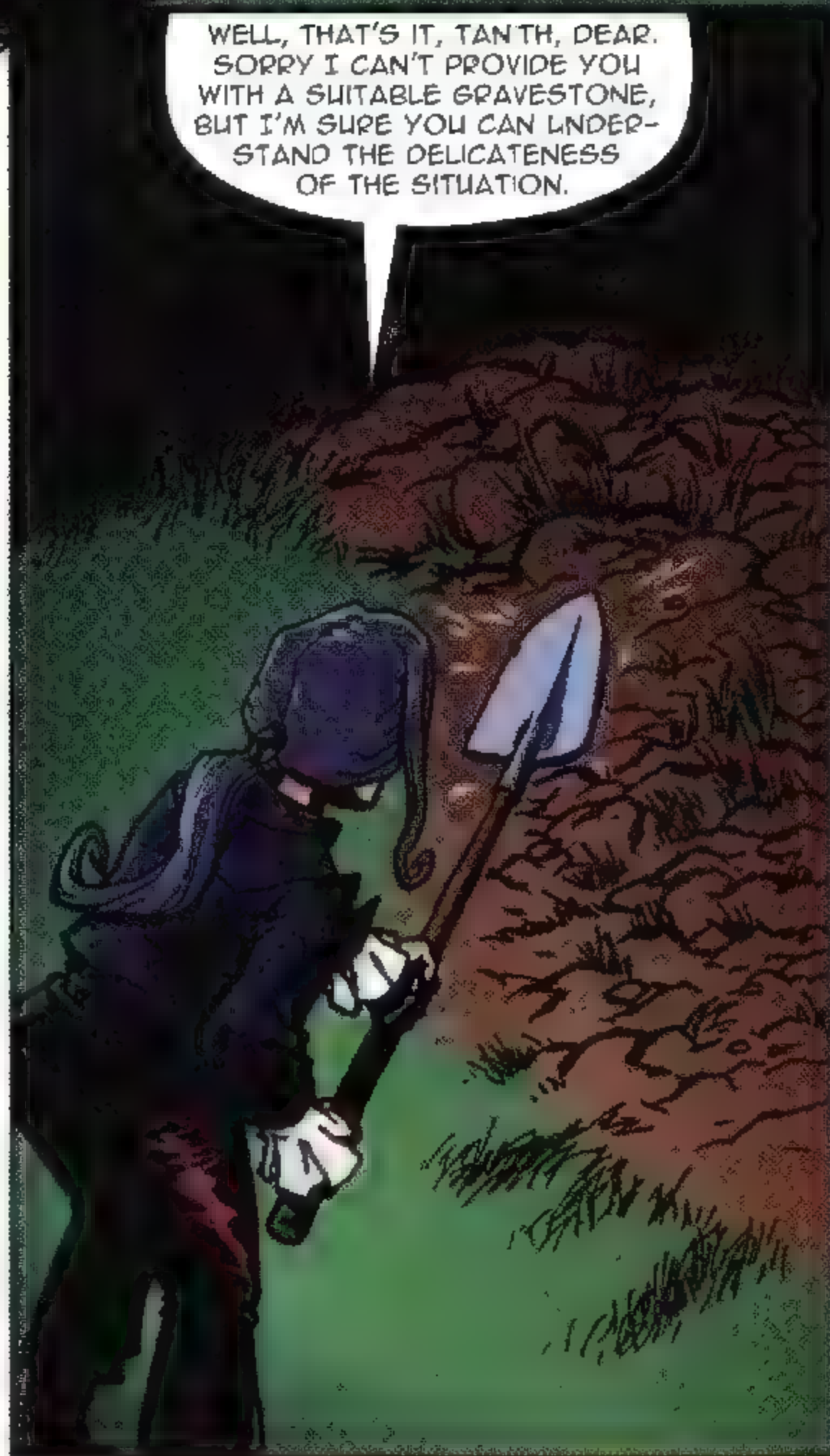
BUT THEY
PASSED LIKE
A GUST OF
SUMMER
WIND.



SINCE, DEAR FRIEND, NO ONE
HAS BEEN BURIED IN THIS
OLD CEMETERY SINCE THE
REVOLUTIONARY WAR, IT
IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY
THAT YOU WILL BE
NOTICED.



WELL, THAT'S IT, TANTH, DEAR.
SORRY I CAN'T PROVIDE YOU
WITH A SUITABLE GRAVESTONE,
BUT I'M SURE YOU CAN UNDER-
STAND THE DELICATENESS
OF THE SITUATION.





THE NEXT DAY, SYBIL,
ARMED WITH TANITH'S
I.D., BEGINS THE DRIVE
TO BOSTON.

WISH ME LUCK, DEAR TANITH, WHEREVER YOU
ARE. AS THE VAMPIRE DUBOIS SAID, IN
CONNOISSEUR OF BLOOD, WHEN HE DROVE
INTO BOSTON, TO MEET THE ILL-FATED
ELIZABETH VANDERVEER, THE
LOVE OF HIS LIFE...



"IN THE BEGINNING
OF THE JOURNEY, I
SAVOR THE ANTICIPATION
AS IF IT IS A FINE WINE TO
BE IMBIBED IN VERY
SMALL SIPS."



HOURS LATER...

"BEHOLO," SAID
THE VAMPIRE DUBOIS,
"THE LIGHTS OF THE CITY
BECKON ME LIKE THE SIRENS
OF ULYSSES. BUT I FEAR THEM
NOT, FOR I AM THE ONE
WHO SHALL TRIUMPH."



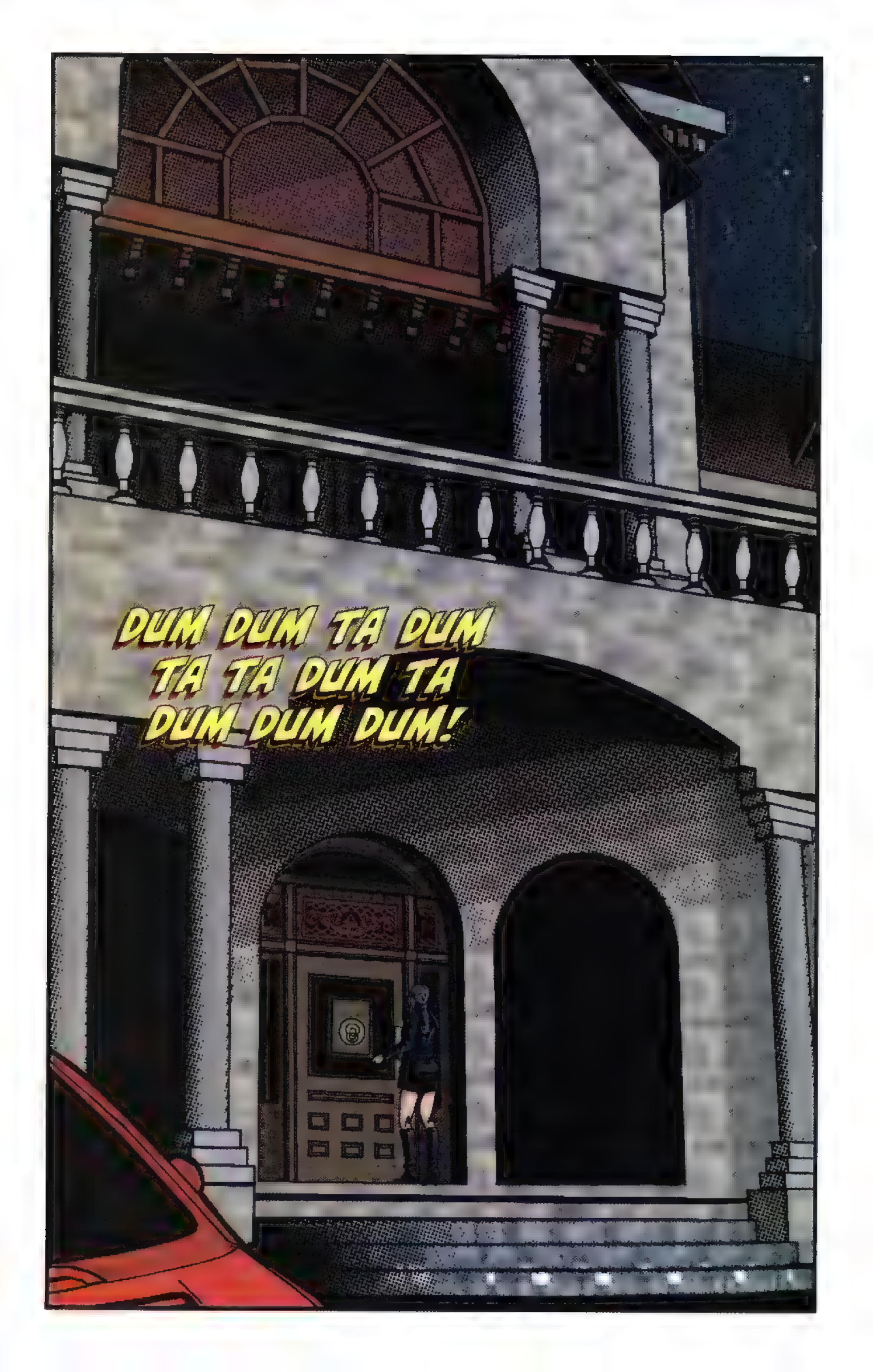
AND NOW TO SEEK OUT
THE ROYAL RESIDENCE OF MY
QUEEN. CERTAINLY, HER REGAL
MANOR IS NOT AMIDST THE
HUMBLE DWELLINGS OF
COMMONERS.



THIS DOCUMENT, HAND DRAWN, NO DOUBT, BY
THE PALACE CARTOGRAPHER, REVEALS THAT I AM
CORRECT IN MY ASSUMPTION; THOUGH, HER
MAJESTY'S STATELY HOME IS NOT FAR, IT
SEEMS. PERHAPS SHE WISHES NOT TO STRAY
TOO GREAT A DISTANCE FROM HER
SUBJECTS.



MY HEART IS ALL AFLUTTER! YONDER
IS THE CASTLE OF SHE WHOM I HAVE
PLEGGED MY ETERNAL ALLEGIENCE
TO! AND WILL YOU LOOK AT THE
SIZE OF IT! YOU COULD FIT MY
WHOLE NEIGHBORHOOD IN THERE
AND STILL HAVE ROOM FOR THE
MALL AND TWO PARKING
LOTS!



**DUM DUM TA DUM
TA TA DUM TA
DUM DUM DUM!**



A LITTLE LATER...

MISS PRICE
WILL SEE YOU
NOW, IN THE
LIBRARY.

ULP! THIS
IS IT! MY QUEEN
AWAITS!

THESE PEOPLE
LOOK EVEN
CREEPIER THAN
MY RELATIVES.

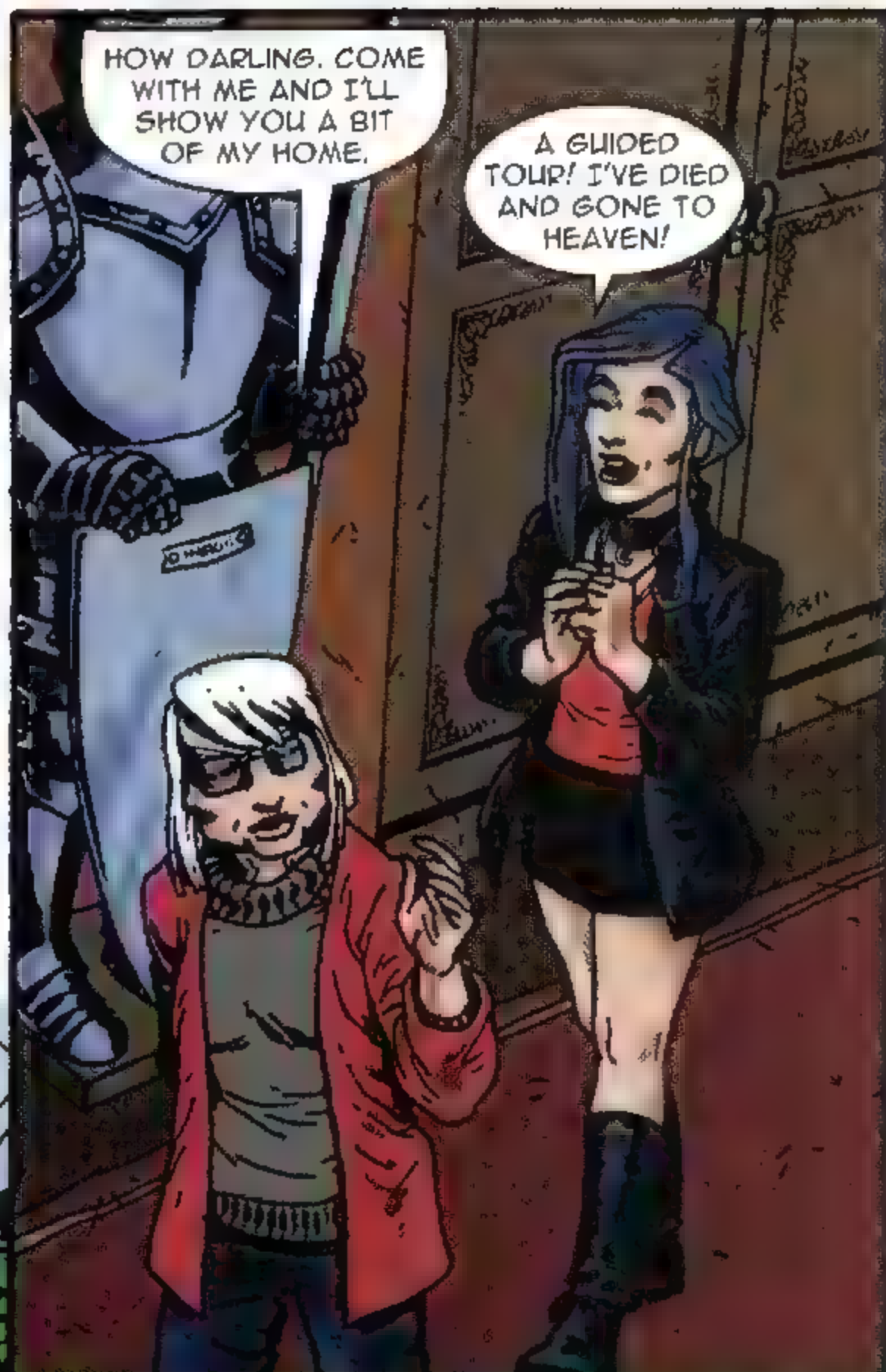
COME IN. YOU
MUST BE MS. BENSON,
THE ILLUSTRIOUS WINNER
OF MY LITTLE CONTEST.
I'M VICTORIA
PRICE.

WELL, OF
COURSE YOU ARE!
THAT IS, UM, I'M SYB--
I MEAN, TAN--, TINA...I'M
PLEASED TO MAKE YOUR
ACQUAINTANCE.



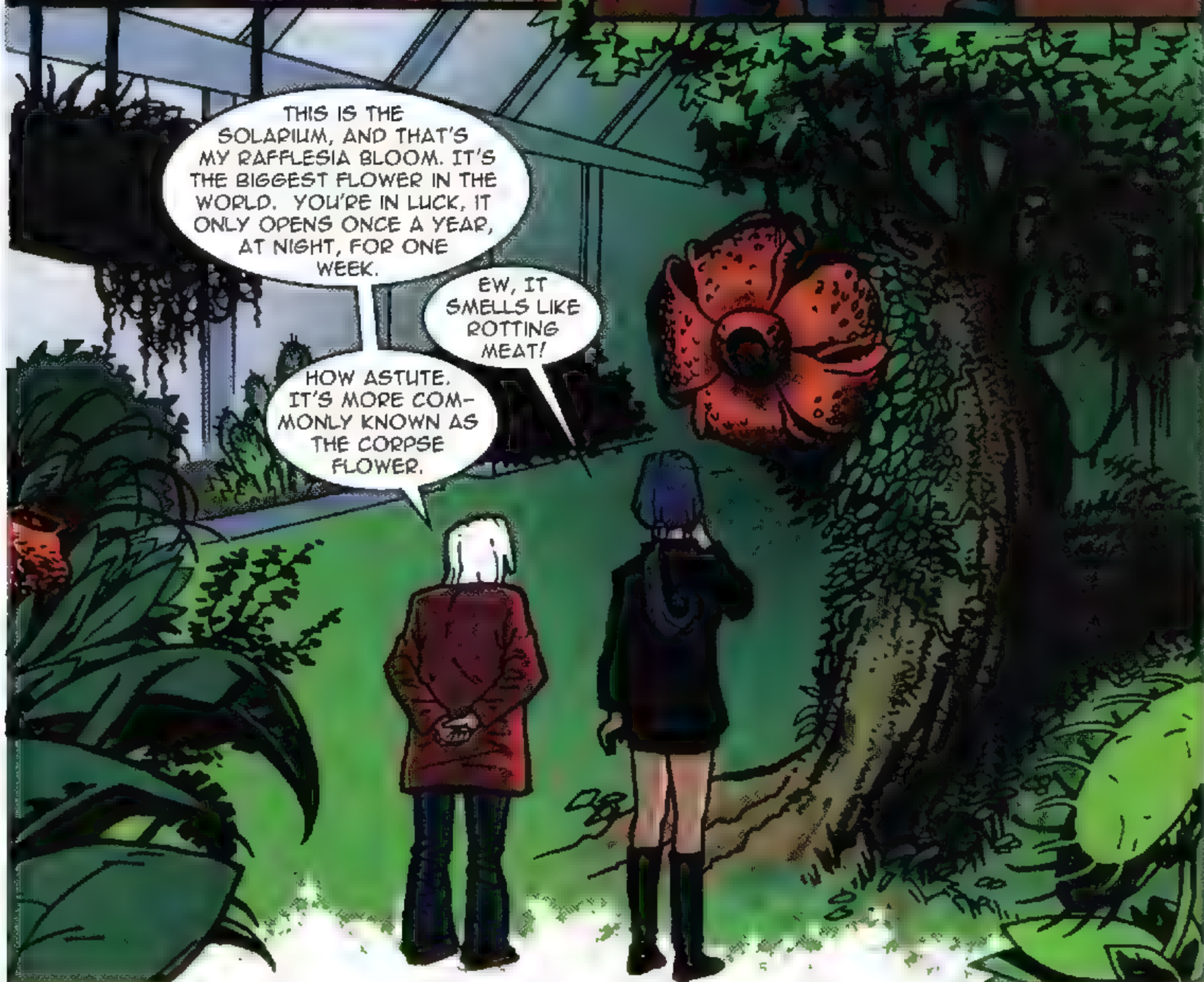
WHY, YOU'RE POSITIVELY SHAKING, MY DEAR! THERE'S NO REASON TO BE NERVOUS.

BUT, I'M YOUR BIGGEST--UH, I'M AN ARDENT ADMIRER OF YOUR LITERARY PROWESS.



HOW DARLING. COME WITH ME AND I'LL SHOW YOU A BIT OF MY HOME.

A GUIDED TOUR! I'VE DIED AND GONE TO HEAVEN!



THIS IS THE SOLARIUM, AND THAT'S MY RAFFLESIA BLOOM. IT'S THE BIGGEST FLOWER IN THE WORLD. YOU'RE IN LUCK, IT ONLY OPENS ONCE A YEAR, AT NIGHT, FOR ONE WEEK.

EW, IT SMELLS LIKE ROTTING MEAT!

HOW ASTUTE. IT'S MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE CORPSE FLOWER.



THIS IS
WHERE I KEEP
MY AMPHIBIANS.

CUTE
FROGS.

EACH ONE
HAS ENOUGH POISON
IN THEM TO KILL ONE
HUNDRED PEOPLE. IT'S
WHAT INDIGENOUS
TRIBES USE ON
THEIR BLOWGUN
DARTS.

I SO HOPE
YOU'RE ENJOYING THIS
GLIMPSE INTO SOME OF MY
DISTRACTIONS. FEEL FREE TO
ASK ME ANYTHING AT ALL.
TONIGHT I'M HERE
FOR YOU.

UH..I WAS
CURIOUS, HOW DID
YOU COME UP WITH
THE CHARACTER
OF THE VAMPIRE
DUBOIS?

AS IT HAPPENS,
THE INSPIRATION
FOR DUBOIS CAME
FROM WHAT'S IN THIS
ROOM. PLEASE,
STEP INSIDE.



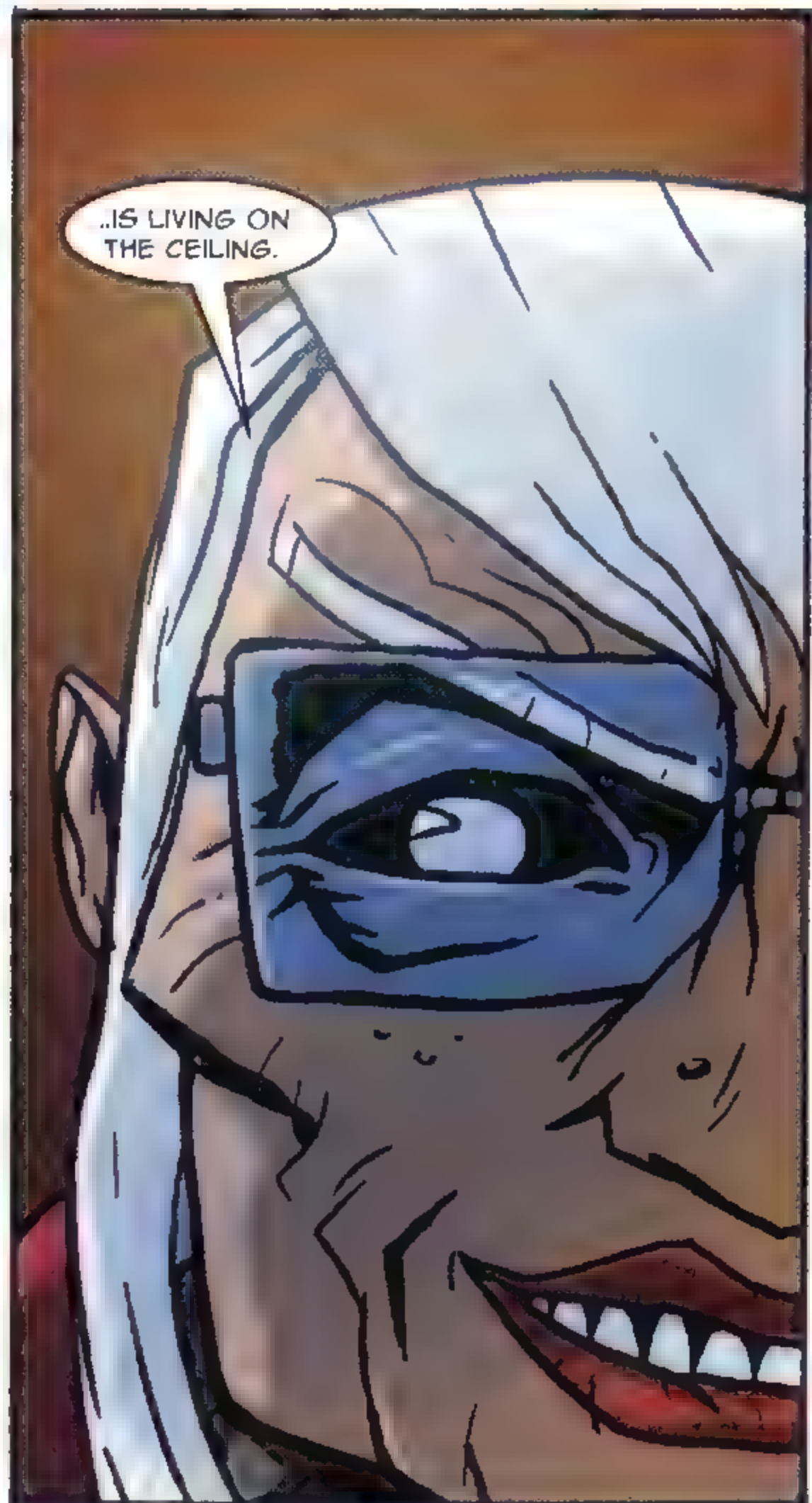


YOU WERE
CHOSEN AS THE CONTEST
WINNER BECAUSE, AFTER A
BACKGROUND CHECK, IT
WAS DETERMINED YOU
HAVE NO LIVING
RELATIVES.

BUT, BUT...
I'M NOT...




TO ANSWER
YOUR QUESTION,
WHAT INSPIRED
MY CHARACTER
DUBOIS...



..IS LIVING ON
THE CEILING.





I PROMISED MY
VAMPIRE BATS A SPECIAL
MEAL TO CELEBRATE THE
LAUNCHING OF MY NEW BOOK.
IT'S A TREAT I GIVE THEM
ONCE A YEAR. IT SEEMS
TO BRING ME LUCK.

AND I'VE BEEN
TOO BUSY TO FEED
THEM LATELY, AND
THEY'RE OH, SO
HUNGRY.

MY, MY, ALL
THAT SCREAMING.
I DO BELIEVE I'M GET-
TING ANOTHER IDEA FOR
A NEW BOOK. I SO
LOVE THE CREATIVE
PROCESS. DON'T
YOU?

END

WHAT A
BATTY ENDING!

>GROAN<

YES, SYBIL PAID
QUITE A PRICE TO MEET
MRS. PRICE! JUST AS YOU'RE
PAYING THE PRICE OF EATING
TOO MANY CHOCOLATE
STUFFED FRUITY GRAIN
BALLS!

IT'S THE ONLY
THING THAT KEEPS
THE OLD VAULT-
KEEPER VAULTING
ABOUT!

JUST CHECK
OUT WHAT HAPPENS TO
LITTLE JIMMY WHEN HE
SKIPS BREAKFAST, IN
THIS SHOCKER I
CALL...


Kid TESTED
MOTHER
APPROVED!

WOW! AN
"A" ON YOUR
SPELLING
TEST...

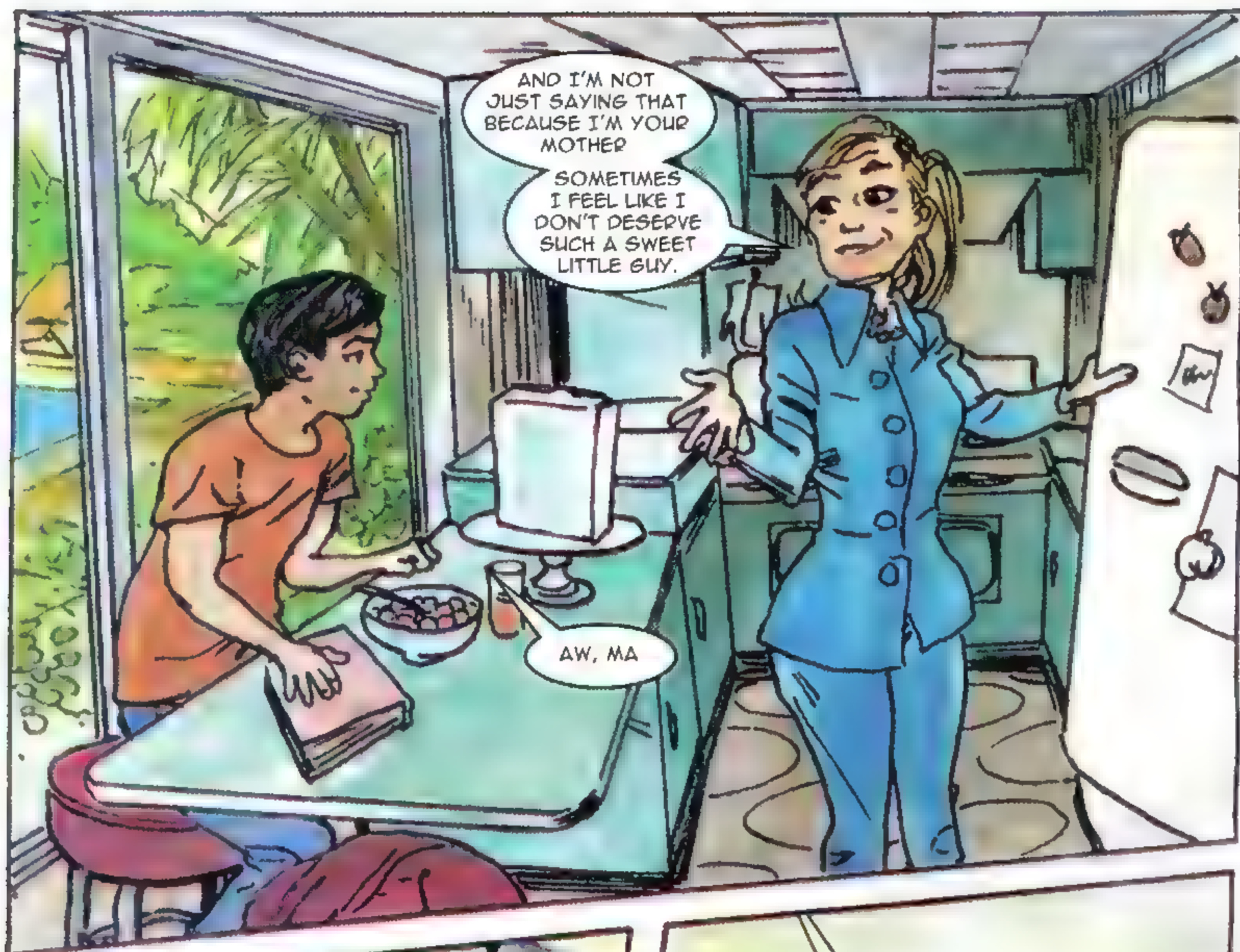
...HITTING A
HOME RUN IN
GYM CLASS...

...LANDING
THE LEAD IN THE
SCHOOL PLAY...

...AND A BLUE
RIBBON AT THE
SCIENCE FAIR!

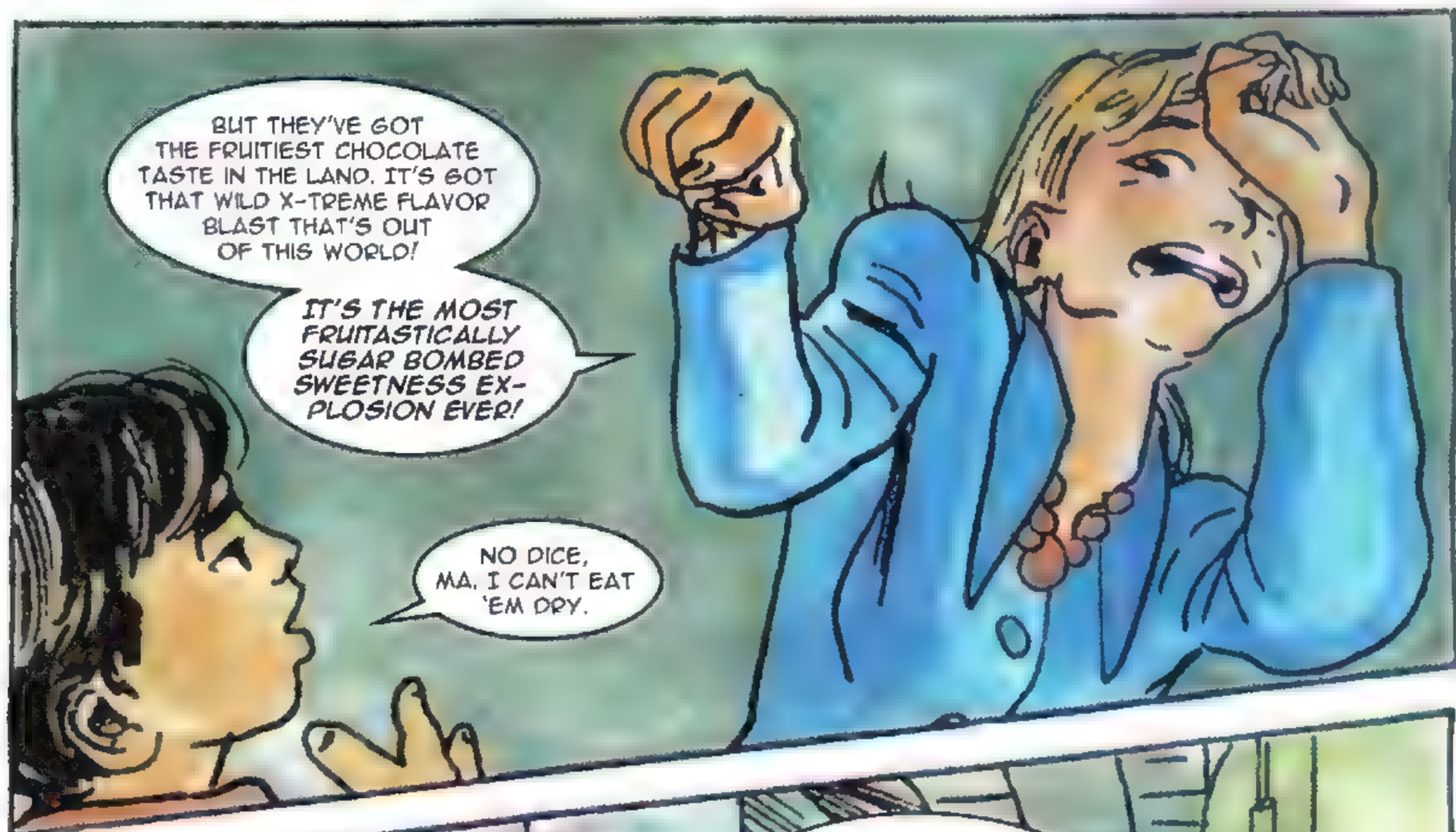
A large, silver-colored bowl filled with numerous scoops of ice cream in various colors: red, yellow, green, pink, and orange. A silver spoon is stuck into the scoops. The background is a bright yellow with black radiating lines, suggesting a spotlight or intense light.

I HATE TO SAY IT,
BUT YOU MIGHT BE
THE **GREATEST KID**
IN THE WORLD!



AW, MA





BUT THEY'VE GOT THE FRUITIEST CHOCOLATE TASTE IN THE LAND. IT'S GOT THAT WILD X-TREME FLAVOR BLAST THAT'S OUT OF THIS WORLD!

IT'S THE MOST FRUITASTICALLY SUGAR BOMBED SWEETNESS EXPLOSION EVER!

NO DICE, MA, I CAN'T EAT 'EM DRY.



YOU ATE THEM DRY ALL THE TIME WHEN YOU WERE LITTLE. WHY, YOU'VE EATEN CHOCOLATE STUFFED FRUITY GRAIN BALLS EVERY DAY OF YOUR LIFE...

...WELL SINCE YOU'VE HAD TEETH.

MOM, I'LL BE OKAY. I DON'T NEED TO EAT THEM EVERY DAY.



YES...YES, YOU DO!

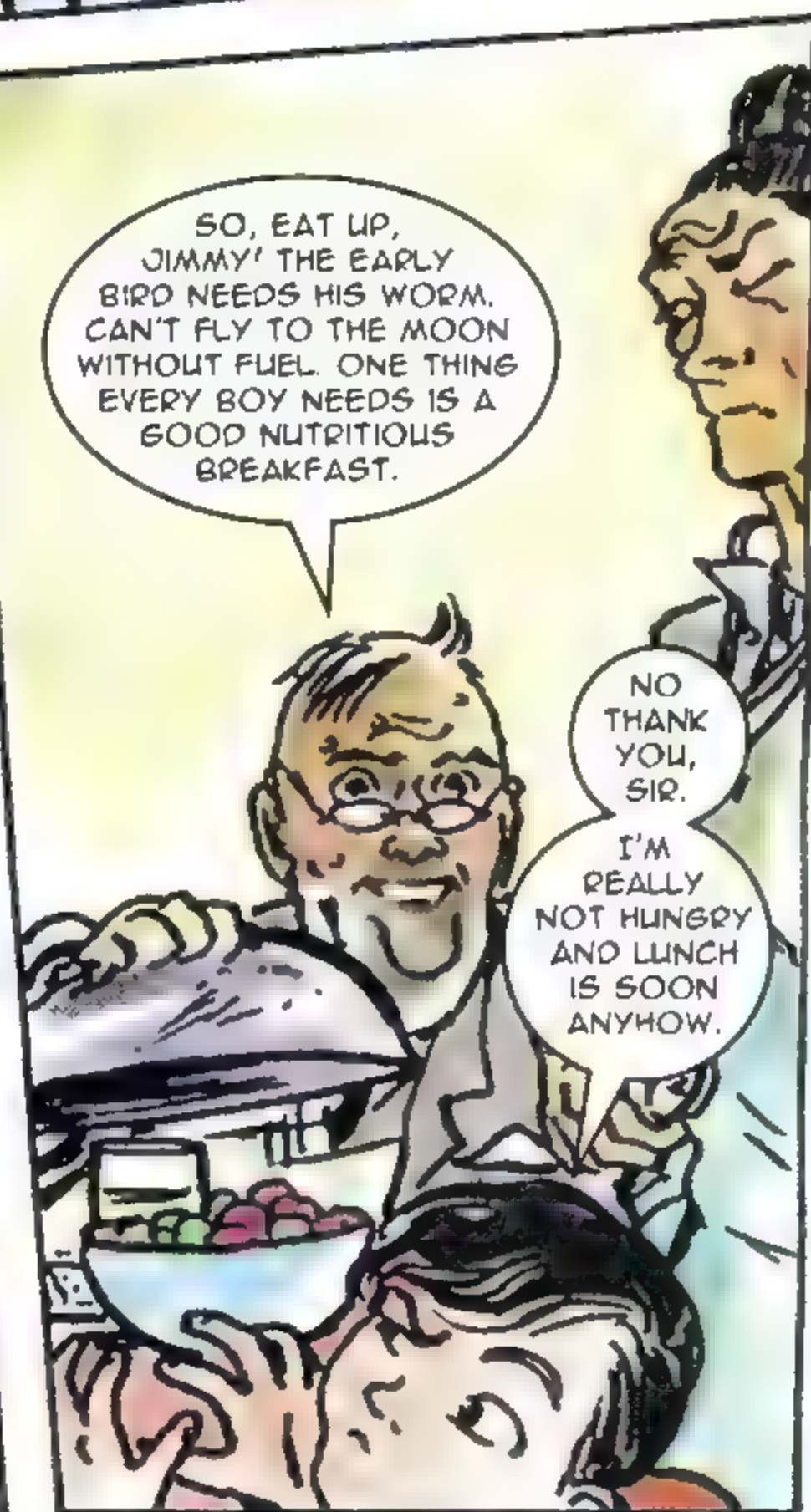
WHY AREN'T YOU GOING CRAZY WITH THE CHOCORIFFIC FRUIT SPASMS?

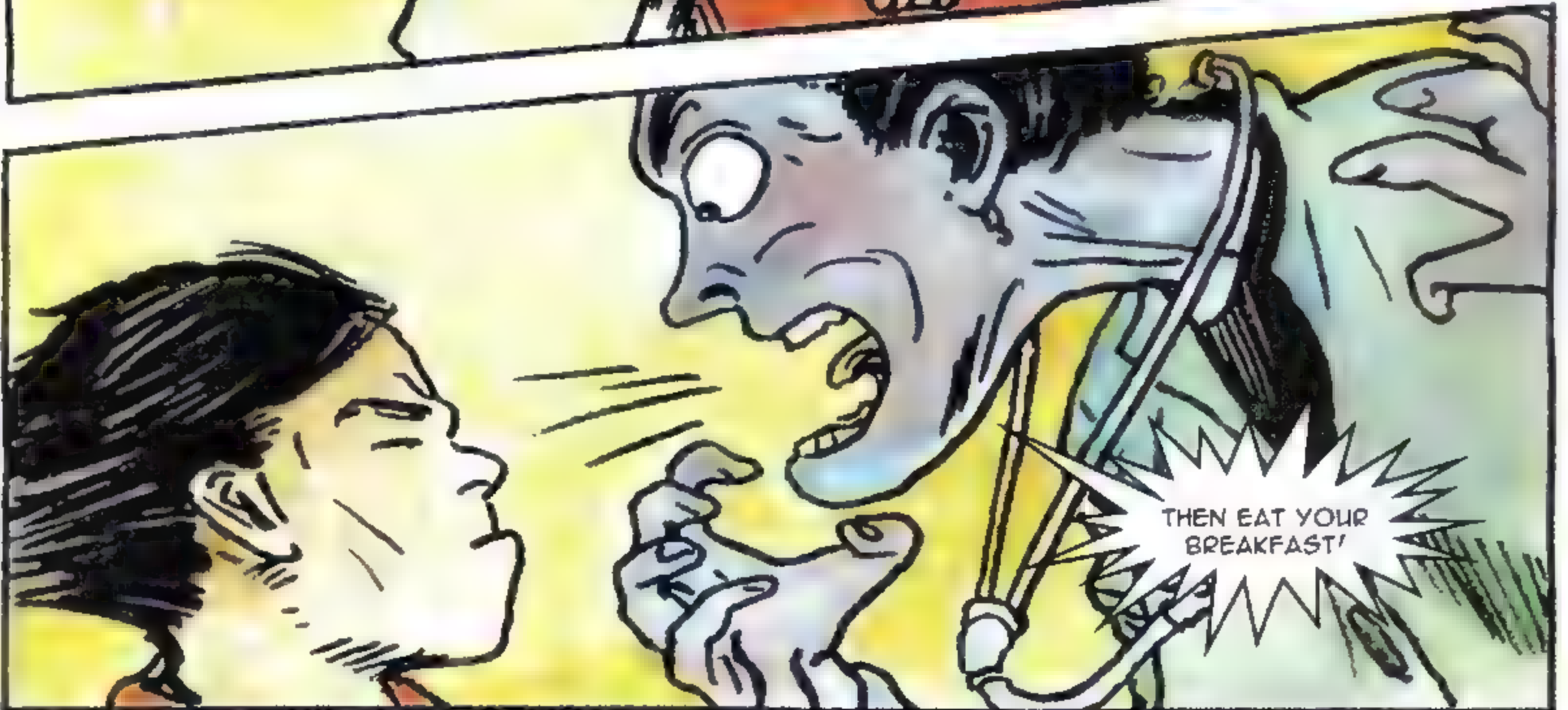
JIMMY, YOU NEED A WELL-BALANCED BREAKFAST WITH THE SWEETNESS YOU CRAVE MELDED WITH THE VITAMINS, NUTRIENTS, AND MINERALS YOU NEED FOR STRONG BONES, A WINNING SMILE AND PEP AND ...AND VIGOR!

VIGOR-- YOU NEED VIGOR!!

BYE, MOM SEE YOU AFTER SCHOOL









NO.



RUTH, CALM DOWN. YOU DON'T WANT TO AGITATE THE BOY.

MMM HE'S YOUR PROBLEM, BILL.

I PUT MY TWO CENTS IN ALREADY--AND YOU KNOW MY STANCE ON THIS *ISSUE*.



WHEN IT HITS THE FAN, DON'T COME CRYING TO ME.

BEEP BEEP

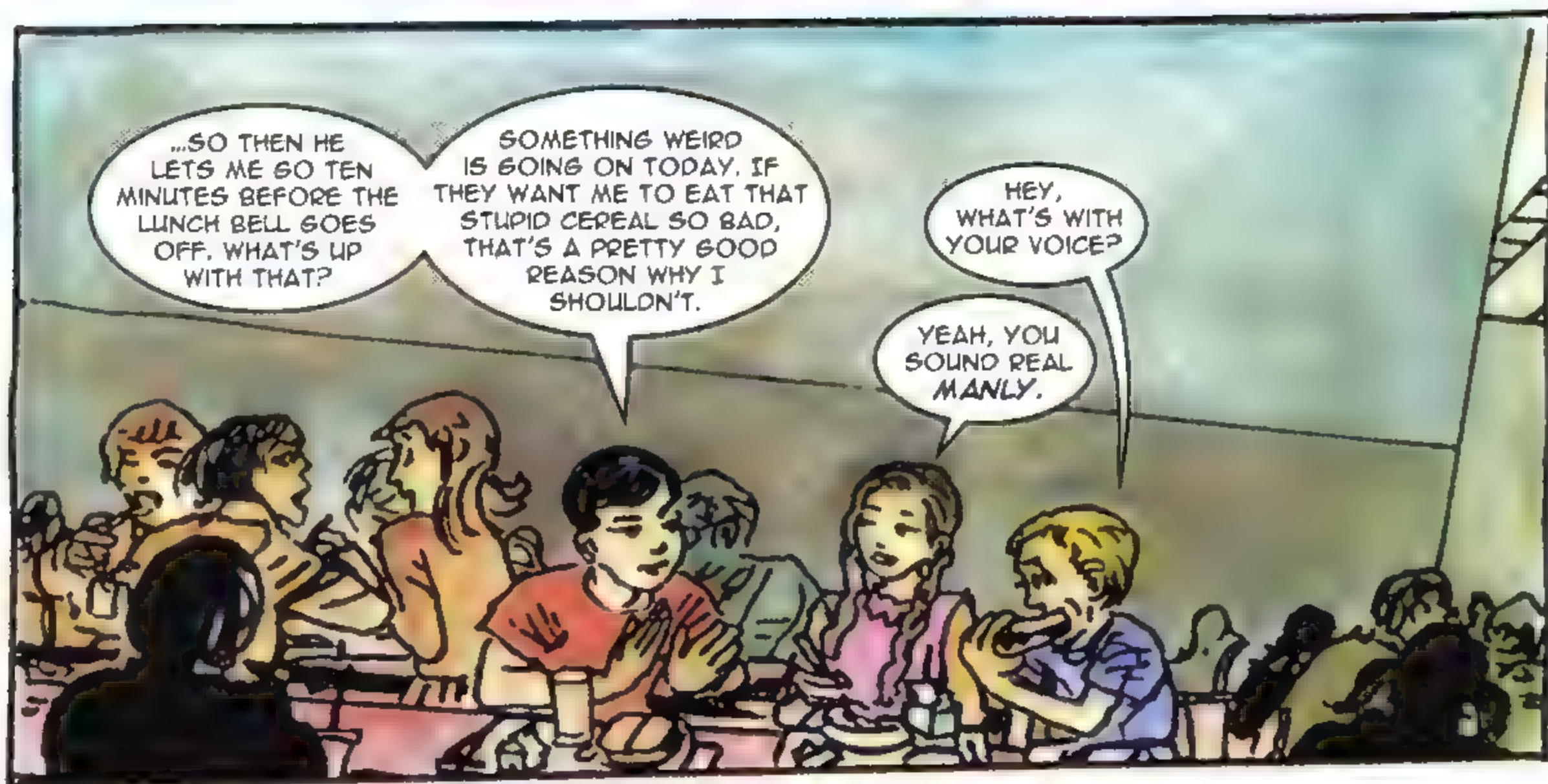


HELLO?

SORRY, JIMMY, I NEED TO TAKE THIS.

I'LL BE BACK IN FIVE AND THAT BREAKFAST BETTER BE GONE, MISTER



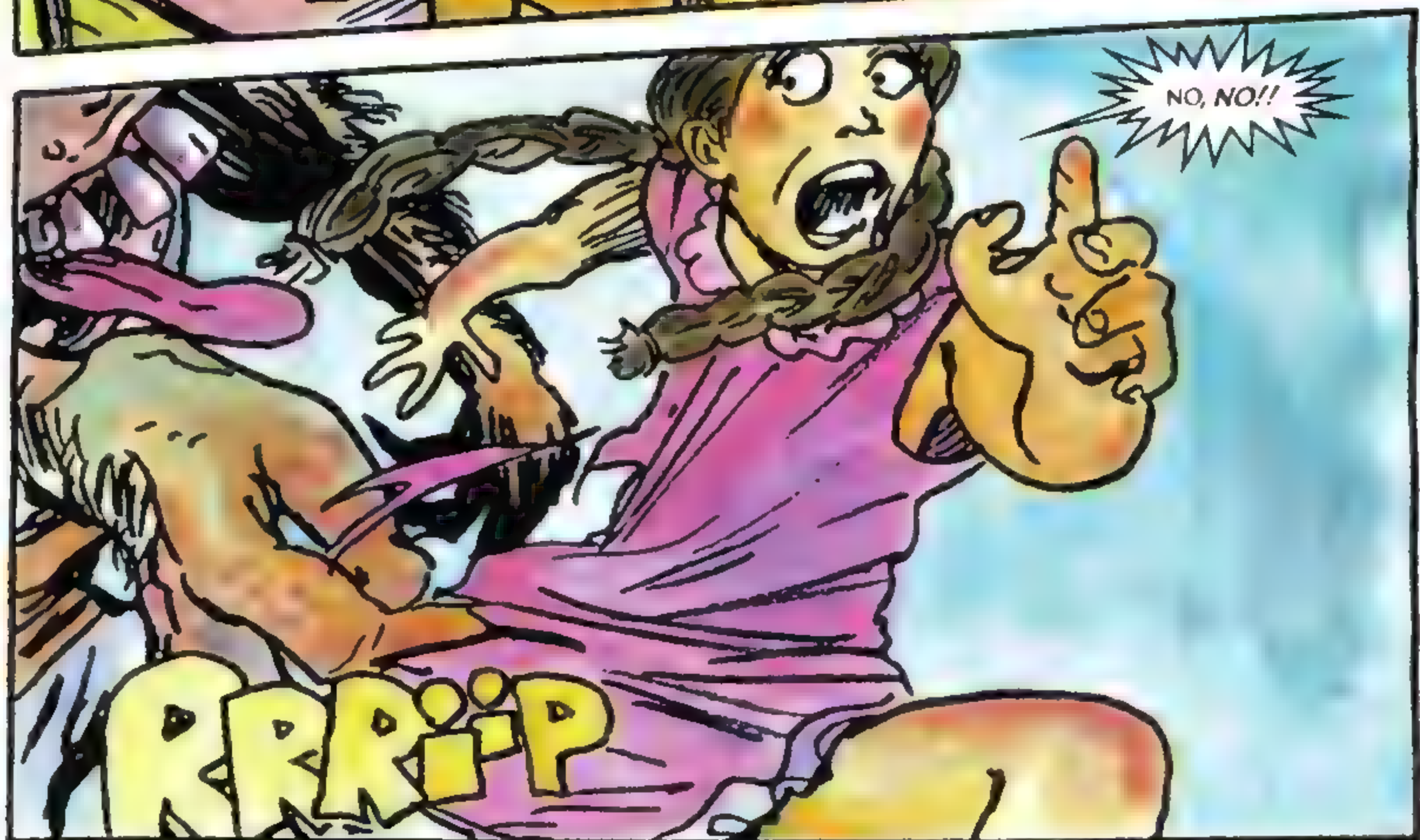


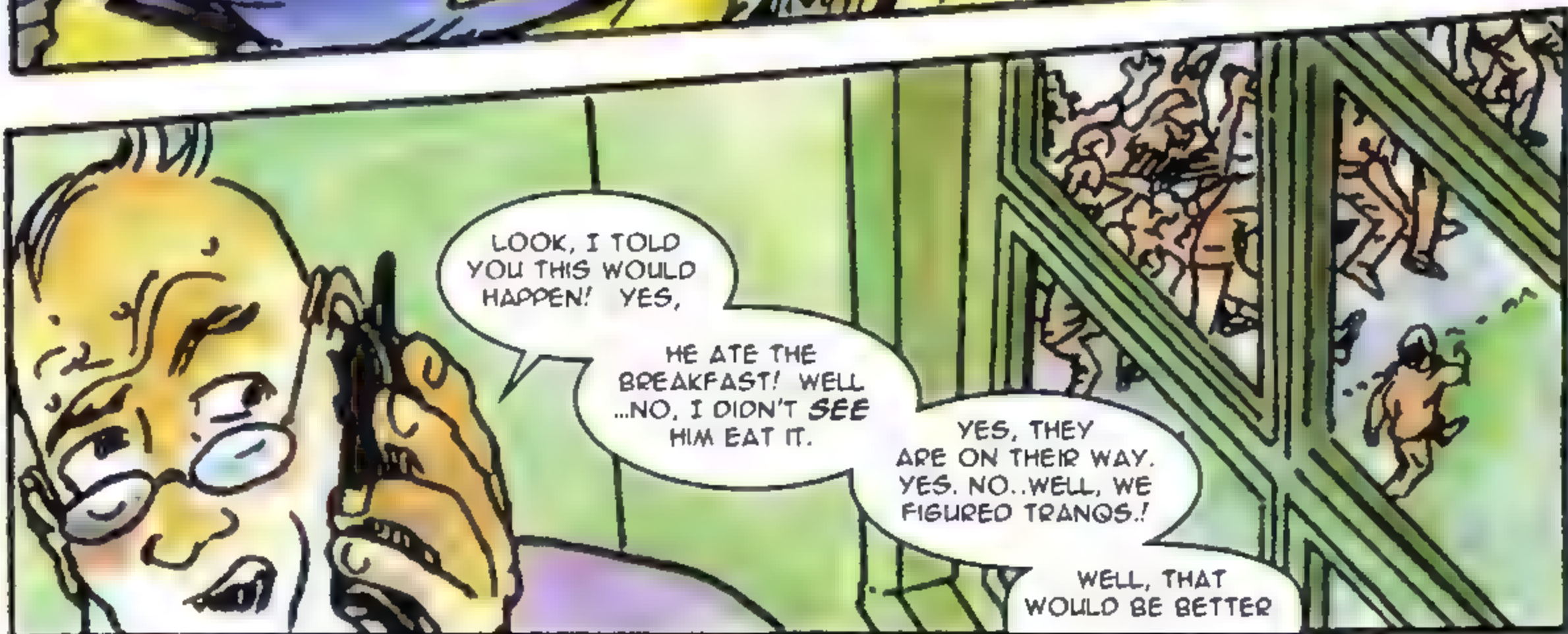
CRASH!

LEMMIE THROUGH!
OUTTA THE WAY,
YA BRATS

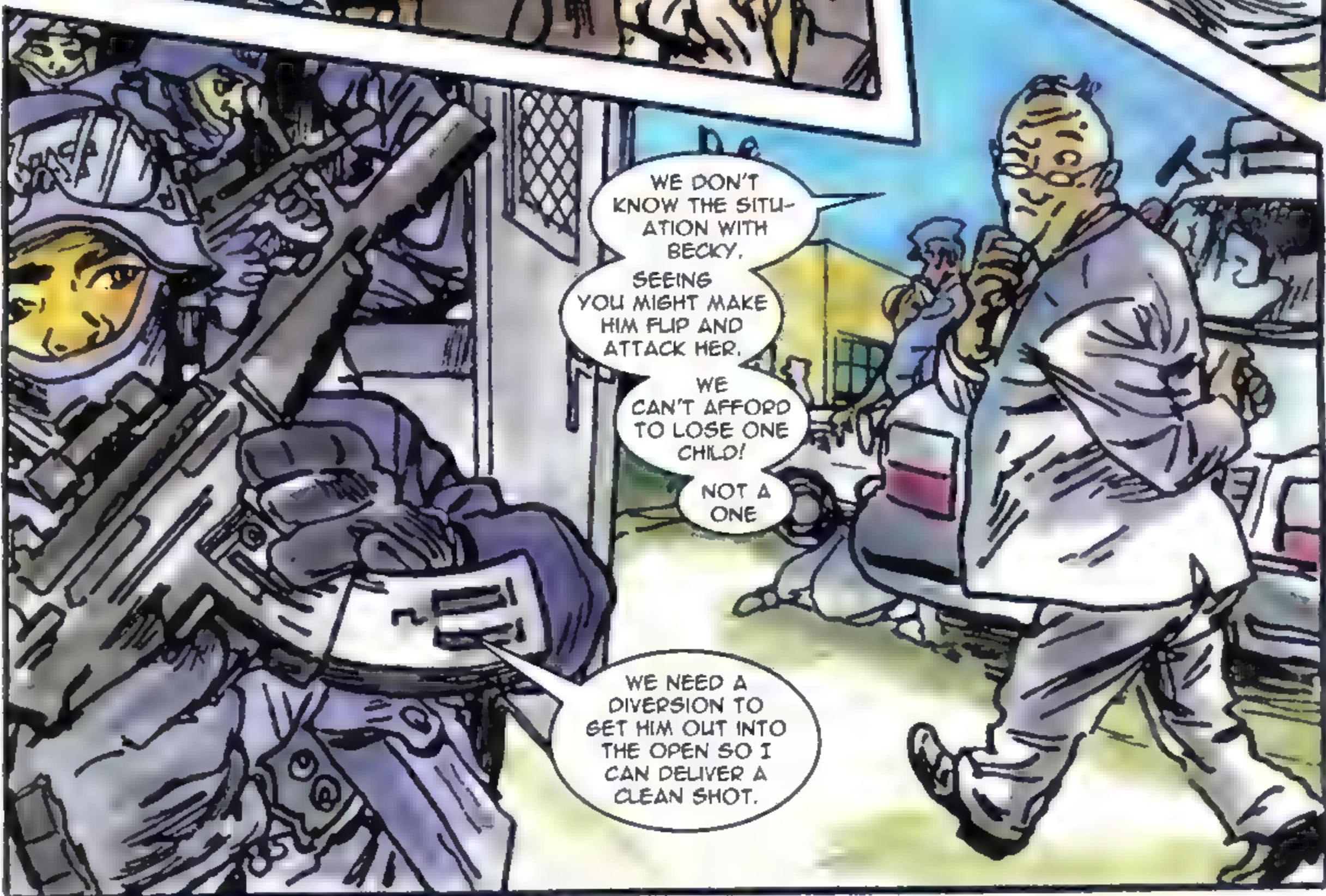


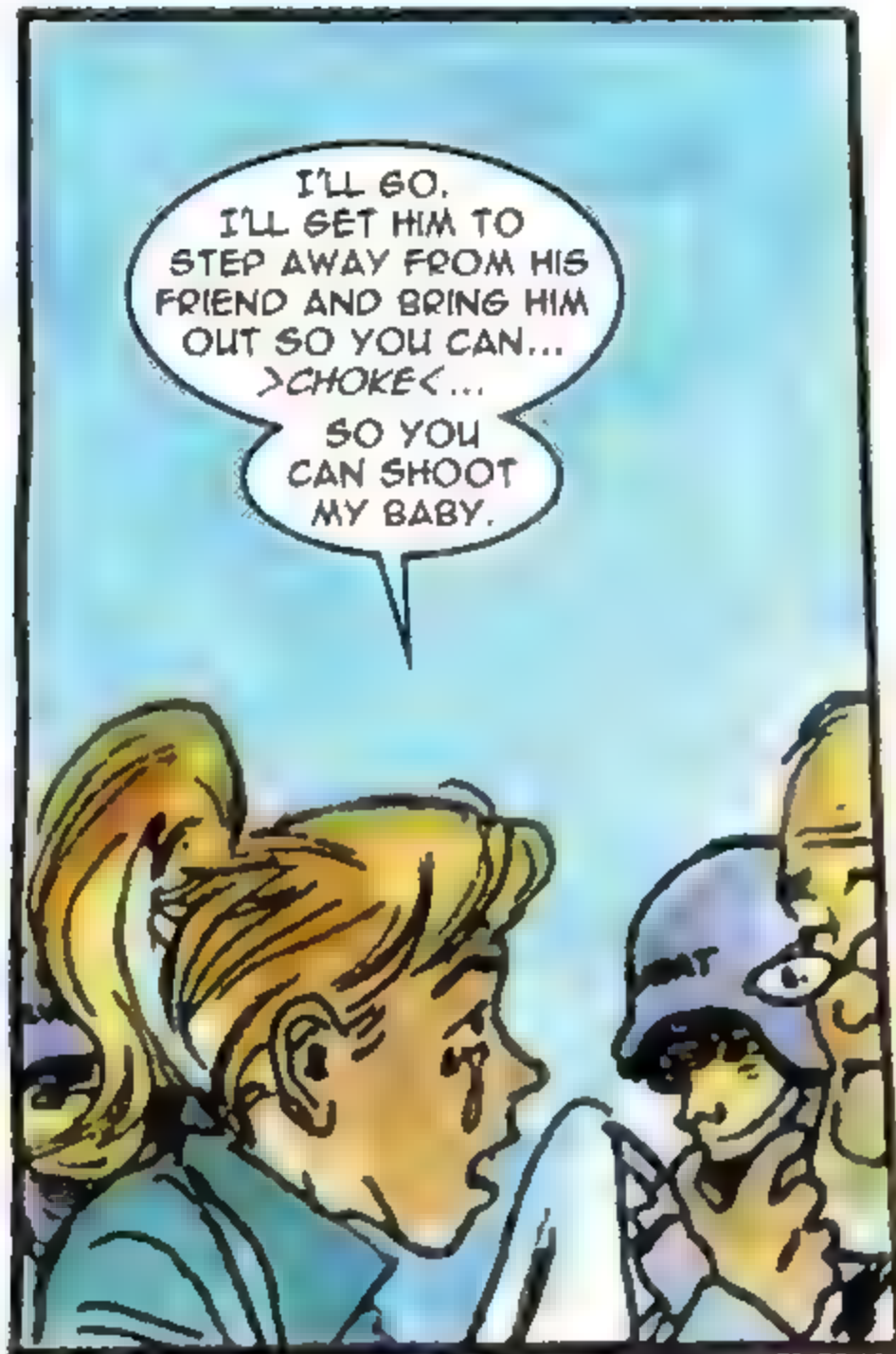
CRASH!

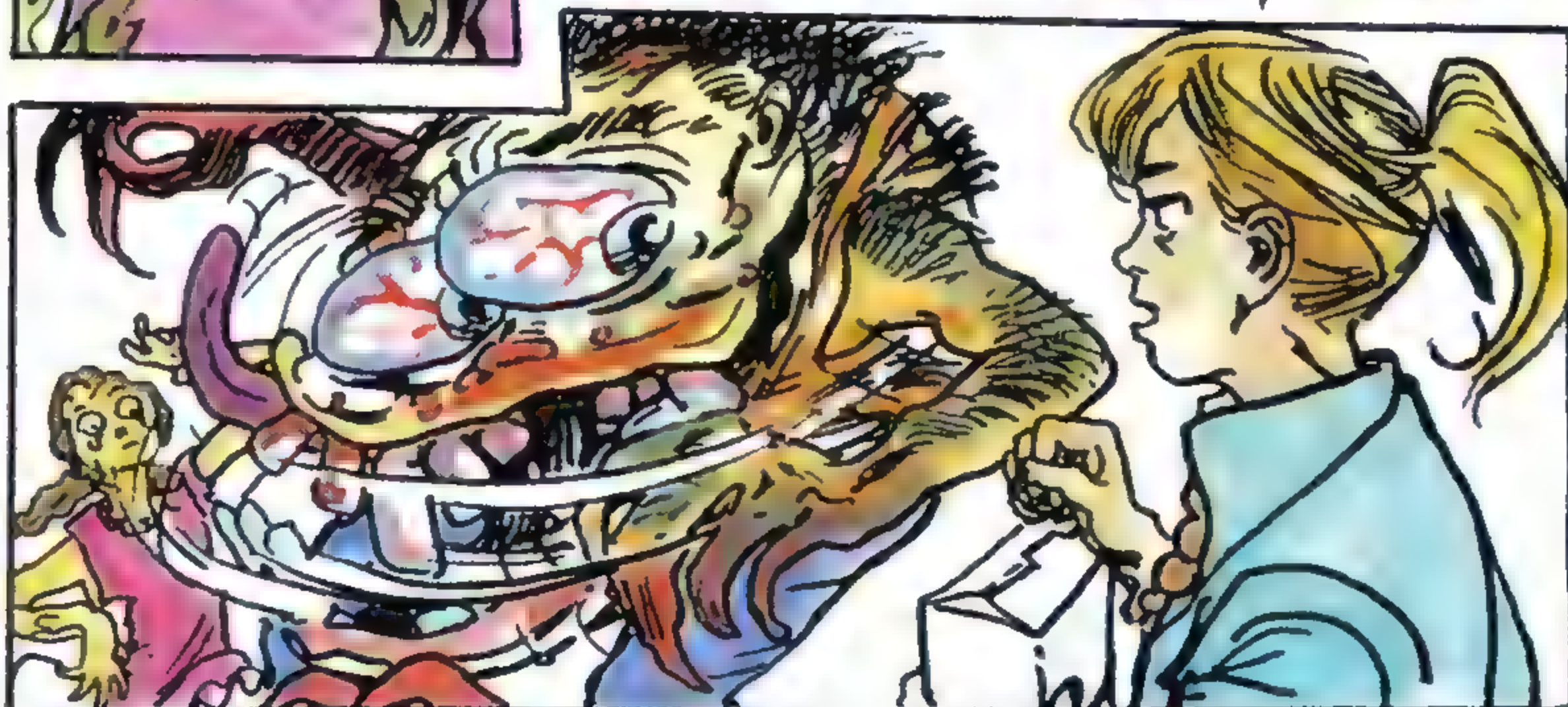
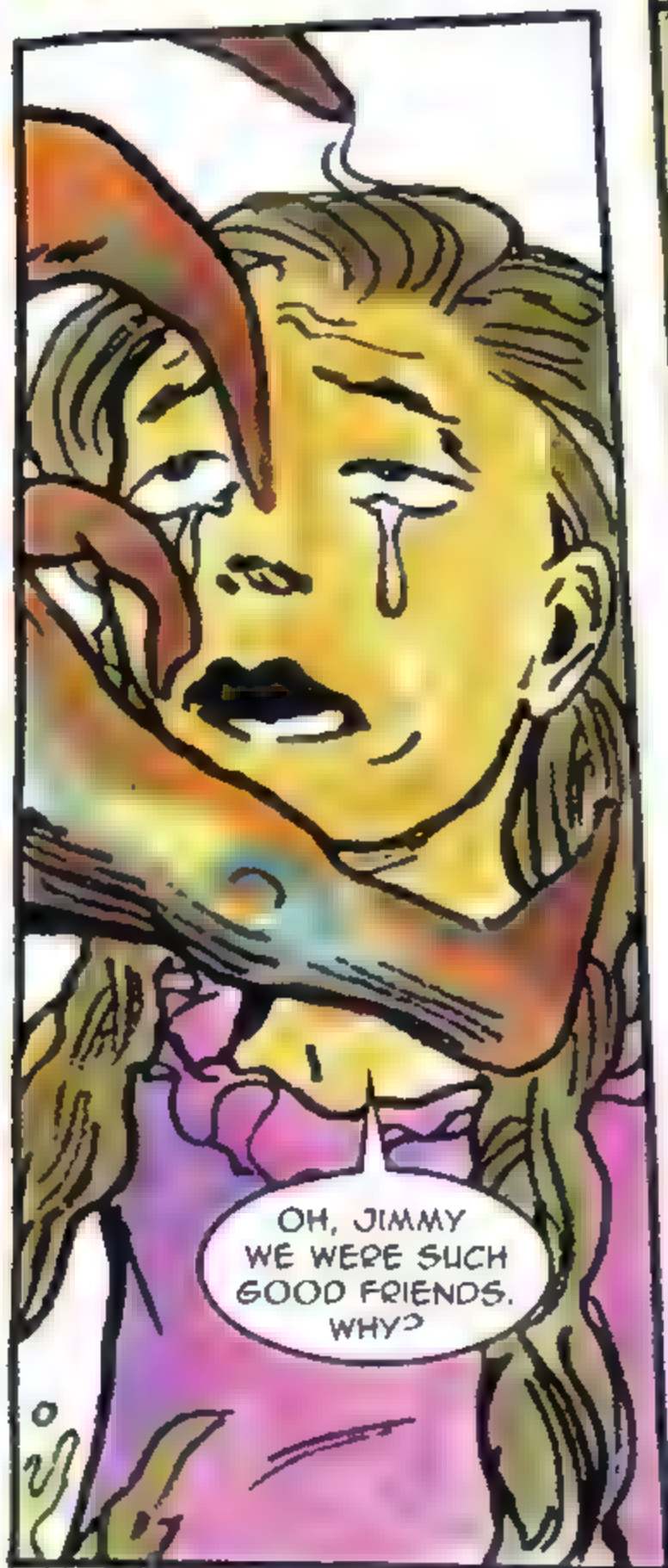
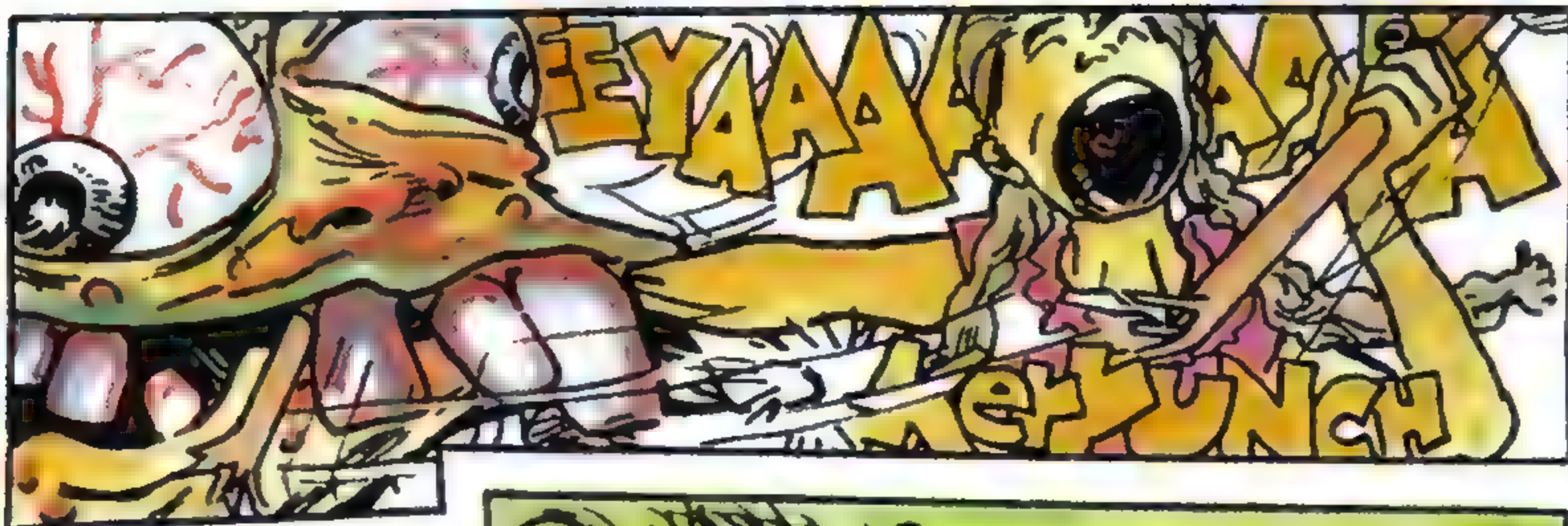


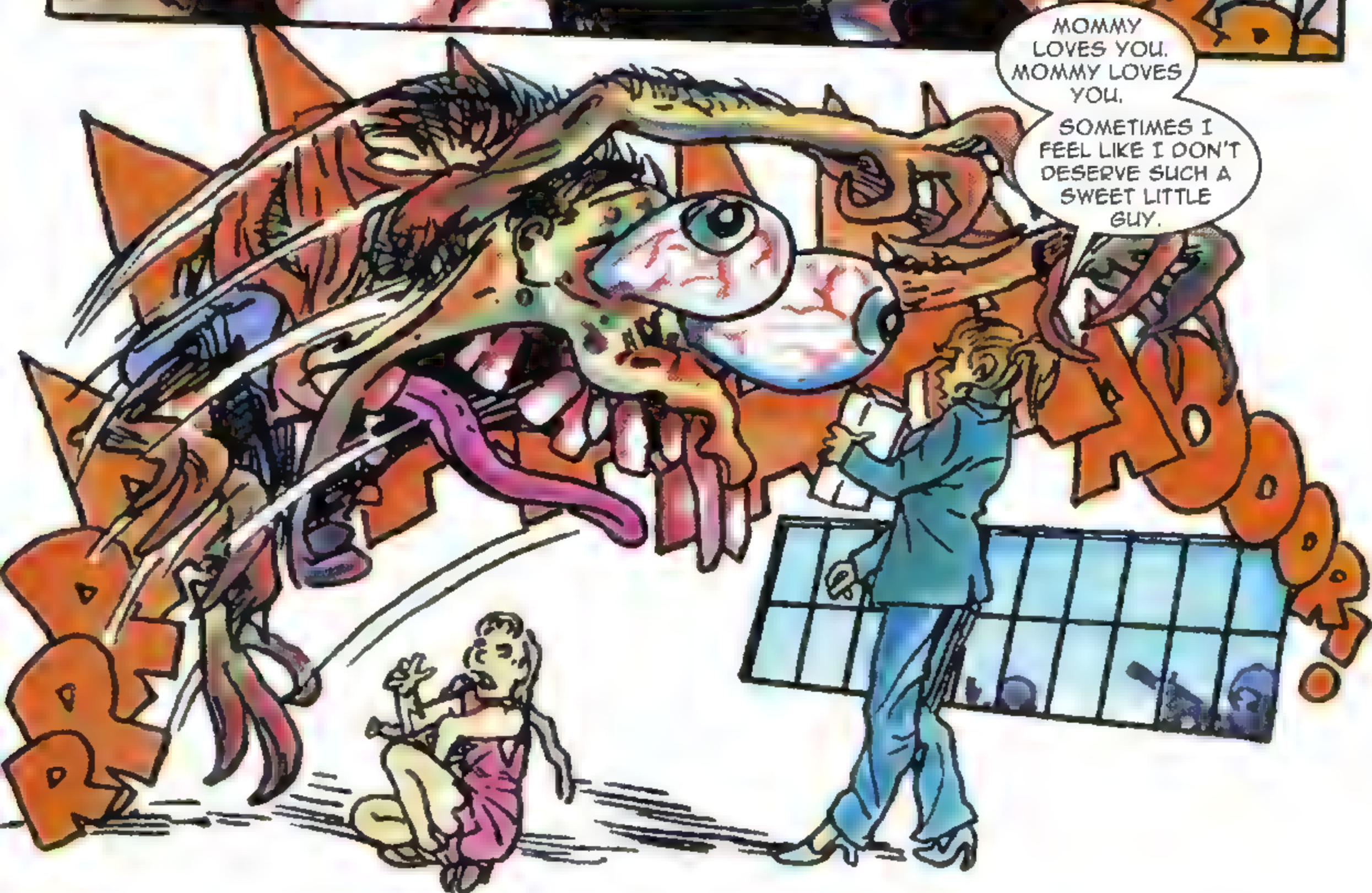


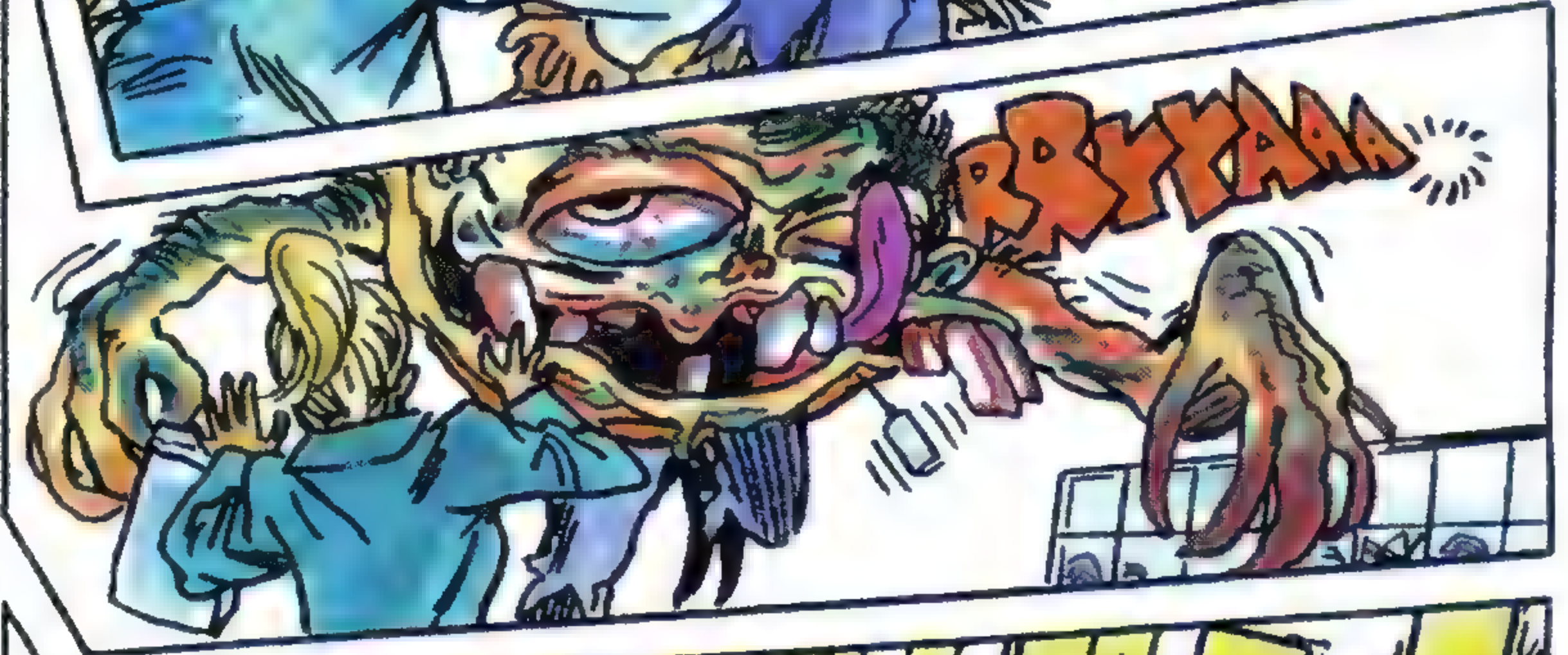
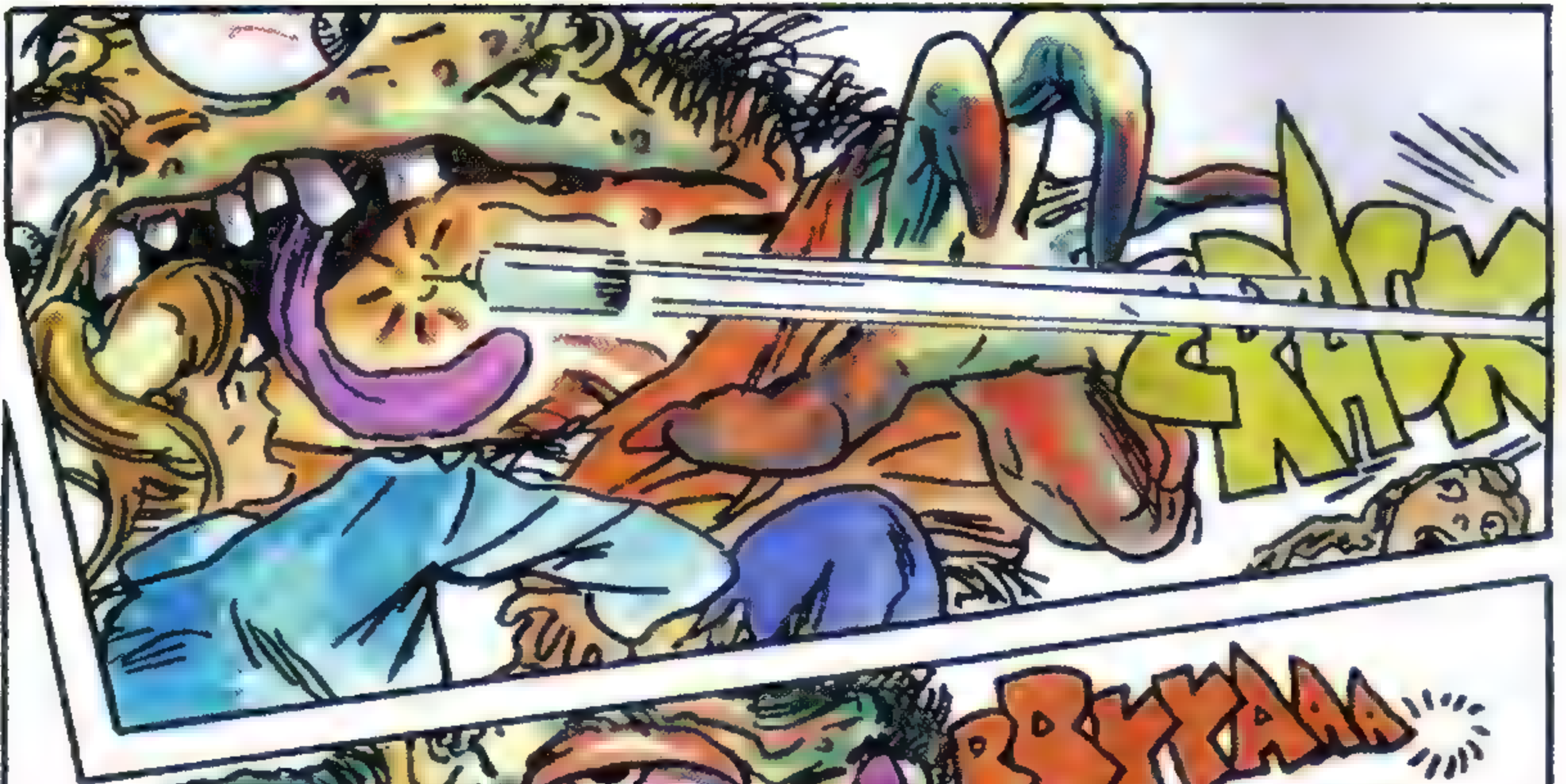












EVERYTHING'S
GONNA BE OKAY,
BABY.

YOU ARE THE
BEST KID IN THE
WORLD.

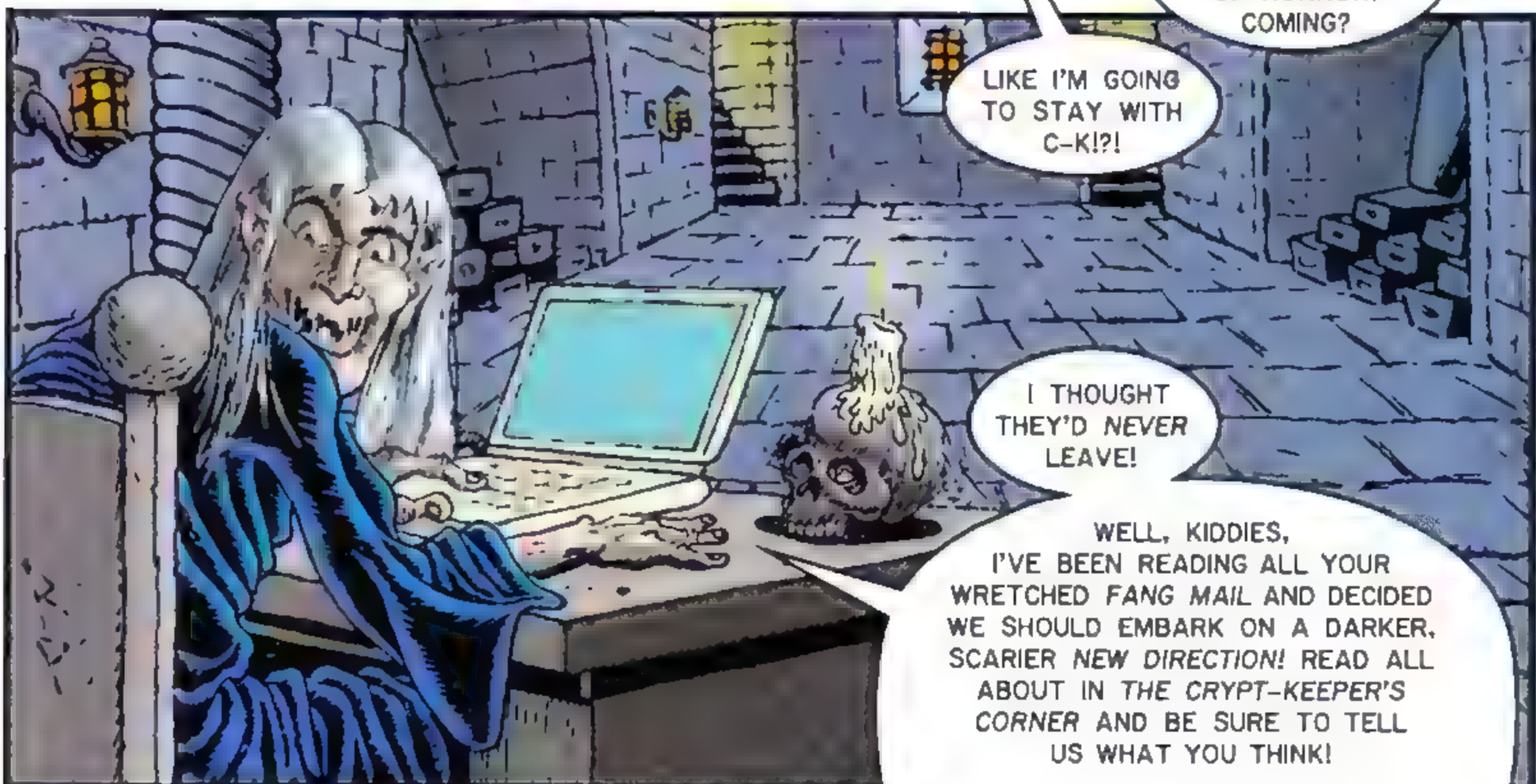
EVERYTHING'S
GONNA BE GREAT.

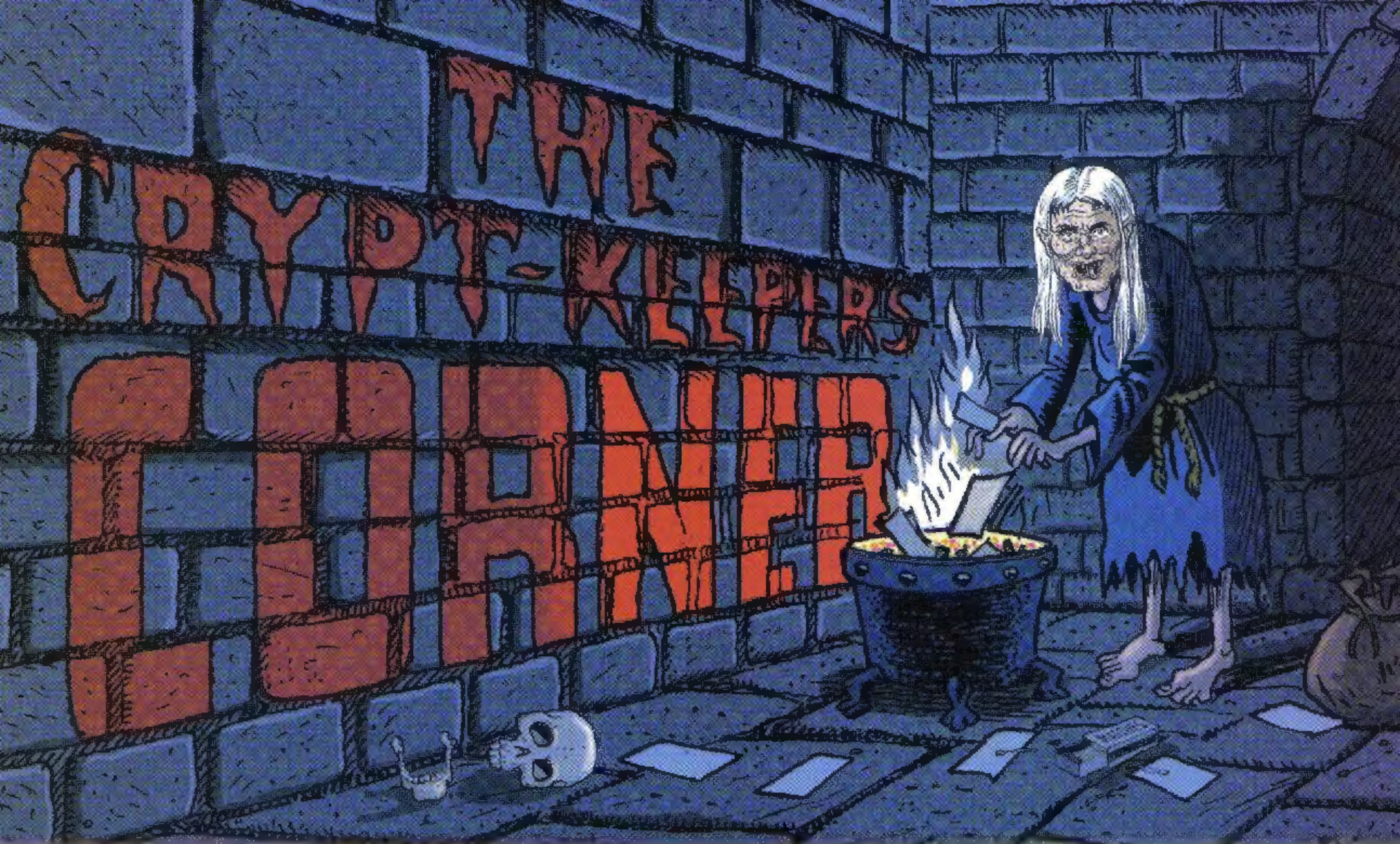
YOU'RE GOING
TO EAT A NUTRITIOUS
BREAKFAST EVERY
DAY.

FROM
NOW ON
I PROMISE.
NO MORE
MISTAKES.

EVERYTHING'S
GONNA BE JUST
LIKE IT WAS BEFORE.
I PROMISE.







Hidee-ho, horror-fans! It's me again, the original ol' Crypt-Keeper. Welcome to more CONDESCENDING CRITICISM, mixed in with a dollop of MINDLESS PRAISE, for our previous inconsistent issues. Let's hear it for the FEARLESS FANS willing to brave the BITING WIT and CUTTING COMEBACKS for which this politically incorrect letters column is becoming INFAMOUS!

Now, kiddies, this is where I'd normally reveal the results of your votes on TALES FROM THE CRYPT #4, but the SHOCKING TRUTH is, at presstime we still haven't received any! So, it's still up in the air what you think about last issue's TERROR TALES – "CRYSTAL CLEAR" by Don McGregor and James Romberger and "Extra Life" by Neil Kleid and Chris Noeth. For you ROTTING READERS living in the United States, this is an election year, so it's your DUTY to VOTE! We'll give you one more chance, but when TALES FROM THE CRYPT #6 hits the stands, the voting on #4 will be OFFICIALLY OVER!

If you somehow missed our FRIGHTENING fourth issue, the PENNY-PINCHERS over at Papercutz have already collected "CRYSTAL CLEAR" and other FEAR-FABLES into paperback and hardcover collections entitled TALES FROM THE CRYPT #2 "CAN YOU FEAR ME NOW?" You'll have to wait for the third CRYPT collection, entitled "Zombielicious" for "Extra Life" to be collected, though! But TALES FROM THE CRYPT #2, along with TALES FROM THE CRYPT #1 "Ghouls Gone Wild!" should be on shelves of better BOOKSTORES now.

Okay, just wanted to say how much I like the "TALES FROM THE CRYPT" comics. Okay, I like the stories, although the art needs to look more like the old comics from the fifties, 'cause I liked the way it looked back then. I really didn't read the old comics, I only saw that art on the first season DVD. But keep up the good work on the comics; also maybe stay with the tradition of those comics.

Your Fan,
Ethan

Let us know what you think of our most recent issues, Ethan. Has the artwork taken a turn for the WORSE or are you DIGGIN' the NEW DIRECTION newcomer Noeth, rotten ol' Romberger, and even the ever-popular Mr. Exes have taken?

Subject: I love Tales from the Crypt!!!!

Hi, you deadheads! I love the comic. I was reading issue #3 and I was wondering where you got the idea for a painting of a zombie Mona Lisa? Can't wait for the next issue! Can I order a copy of issue #1 from you?

Sean Clagg
Myrtle Beach, SC

Sorry, Sean, but we're SOLD OUT of TALES FROM THE CRYPT #1. You can order the paperback or hardcover collections that feature both stories from #1. And you'll have to read "A BODY OF WORK" by Marc Bilgrey and Mr. Exes to learn the SECRET behind ZOMBIE MONA!!

Dear Crypt Keeper,

I thoroughly enjoyed the third issue. I feel I am in the minority, but in the end "A Murderin' Idol" eventually came out as my favorite. "And may I make a suggestion? Do something about that hair!" Hee, hee! How many demons do you see making suggestions? I have a feeling, though, that it will be beaten by "Slabbed!" because everybody loves it when comics make stories about comics. I appreciate the insight as to how the comics industry feels about this latest option of slabbing comics to preserve them, but make them completely unreadable. The blurb about #4 looks promising. Looking forward to #4,

Briony Coote,

Lower Hutt, New Zealand

Good to hear from you again, Briony! But it looks like it takes a while for our mad-mag to make its way to New Zealand, which is causing you to miss out on the voting. But take heart, (or take any organ of your choice!) "A MURDERIN' IDOL" did take top honors over "SLABBED!"

Dear Crypt Keeper,

It looks like you are getting revenge on Dr. Wertham and his "Seduction of the Innocent" which killed off the original title. You had a visitor called Wertham in #2 and your comment on "Slabbed": "It's juvenile delinquents such as Derrick that give comics a really bad name!" was unmistakable. Are you going to go the whole hog and have a story that makes a real dig at the old reactionary? If not, why don't you think about it?

Briony Coote

Lower Hutt, New Zealand

Back again, Briony? In CRYPT #2, I may have exclaimed "What the Wertham --?!" in a moment of TERROR, but rest assured (and in peace) that no visitor of that name has ever stepped foot in THE CRYPT OF TERROR!

Dear Crypt-Keeper,

You were asking readers if the HAUNT OF FEAR and VAULT OF HORROR should be revived as well. Well, I reckon the reason the Vault-Keeper and Old Witch keep goofing off is because they don't have a comic of their own. Therefore I think reviving those titles will be a good idea -- if you feel the readership is strong enough.

Briony Coote

Lower Hutt, New Zealand

You again? Well, we'll need far more than one reader in Lower Hutt, New Zealand before we can even think about reviving HAUNT OF FEAR and VAULT OF HORROR!

Dear Sir;

I am an avid collector of most comics. I do own a complete collection of EC Comics (originals), including a Gaines file copy of WAR AGAINST CRIME #10 9.8. Your attempt at a revival of EC is a great challenge. To me, the ECs were and still are the best books ever to be published. Most of those artists are now well-known and well-collected (very valuable in most cases). Williamson, Wood, Davis, Ghastly Ingels, etc. What I think needs to be done to be successful is "take" from the original format, rather than take an "Archie" approach to your revival. Attempt to do what the original format brought to the media -- excellent art and stories. Then with the right formula, you can bring the whole sci-fi line back and horror. I have a vast knowledge of this business (I own BATMAN #1, SUPERMAN #1, AMAZING FANTASY #15, etc.) and lots of EC original art. Try to move toward the original format. Hey, Al Williamson is still out there, so is Al Feldstein. I would like you to be very successful, but as of now your books are too tame. Granted, there are no Frazettas or Woods out there, but with the right approach you can be very successful.

Good luck.

Robert Metteis

Norwalk, CT

But, Bob, do you have a copy of PURE EVIL #1? So much for this issue's DIVISIVE DISCOURSE! Be here next issue for the story so SHOCKING we can't even reveal the title, as well as "Graveyard Shift at the Twilight Gardens" by Rob Vollmar and Tim Smith 3. "Ignoble Rot" by Fred Van Lente and Steve Mannion, originally scheduled for this issue, has been rescheduled to appear in CRYPT #7.

Keep those emails and letters coming! Tell us what you thought of our NEW DIRECTION, which is FORWARD TO THE PAST! Send your letters to:

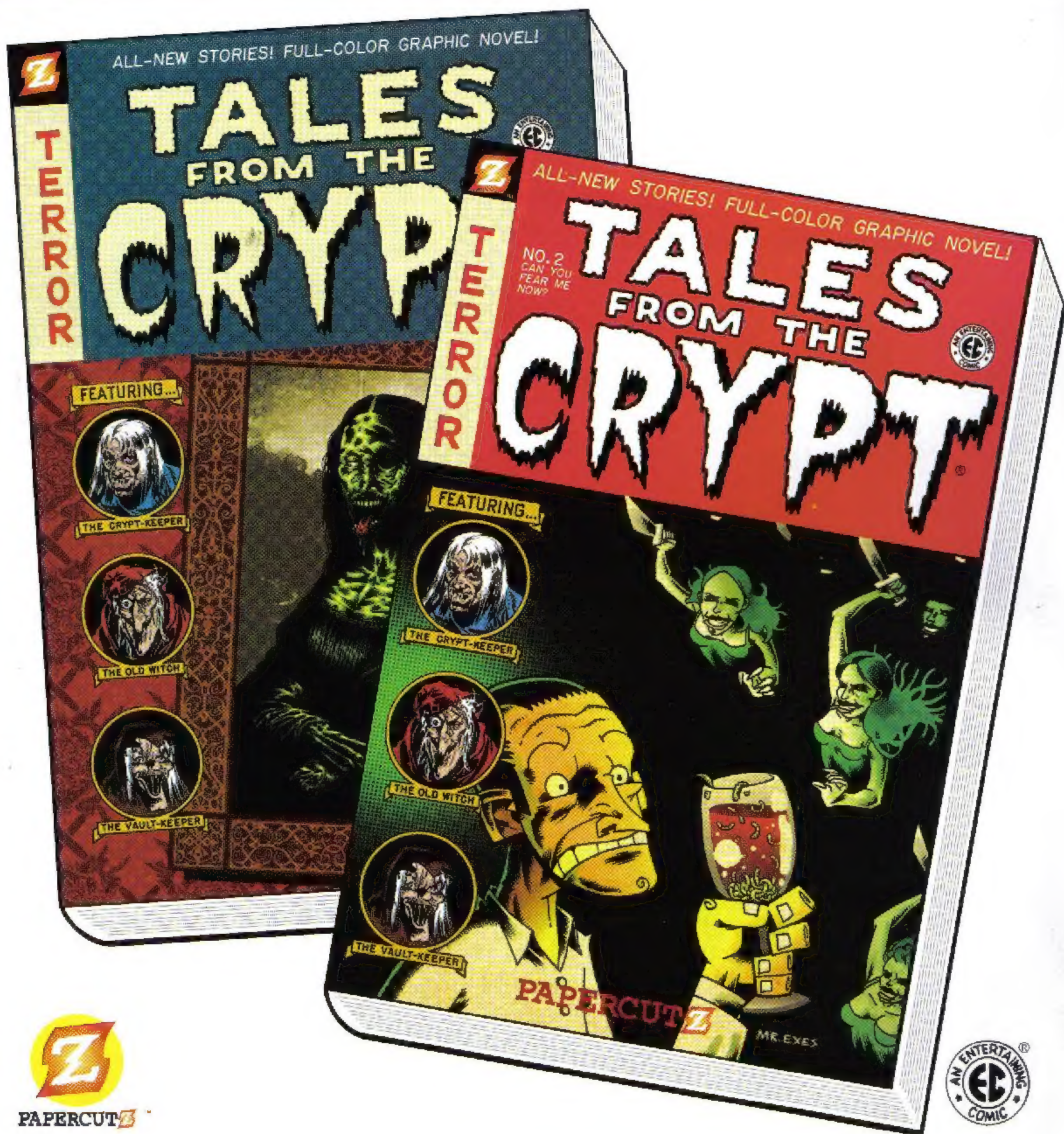
The Crypt-Keeper's Corner
40 Exchange Place, Suite 1308
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Or email your RABID REVIEWS to our elderly editor at: salicrup@papercutz.com.

E.C. FANS!

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